

06HT6105 – Theological Dutch: Dutch for Reading Knowledge

Instructor: Michael J. Douma

Reformed Theological Seminary, Fall 2023

Time: Mondays from 11 to 1

This is an introductory course in the Dutch language designed to teach basic proficiency in reading Dutch for theology students. After building basic vocabulary and an understanding of Dutch grammar, students will focus on reading theological texts written in Dutch. Emphasis will be placed on the basics of translation of these texts. Translation is a skill in itself, but to translate a language, one must also learn the feel of the language and have an ability and desire to speak it, read it, and write it. For this reason, pronunciation, speaking, and listening skills will be included in the lessons. This course is designed to be the first part of a two-or-more-semester sequence.

The class will meet for 12 periods of 2 hours each. Some of the topics we will cover include:

1. Brief overview of the Language (alphabet, numbers, introductions, personal introductions, time)

Homework texts to translate: Sally Ann Wright, *Mijn Bijbelverhalen* “De Schepping”

Delftse Methode – Les 1

2. Pronouns. Definite and indefinite articles, nouns

Delftse Methode – Les 2

Homework text to translate: Sally Ann Wright, *Mijn Bijbelverhalen* “Abraham”

3. Word order, plural nouns, negation

Delftse Methode – Les 3

Homework text to translate: Genesis 1, 1-20 (1939 version)

4. Adjectives, possessives.

Delftse Methode – Les 4

Homework text to translate: Genesis 1, 21-31 (1939 version)

5. Verbs and conjugation

Delftse Methode – Les 5

6. Separable, reflexive, and modal verbs.

Delftse Methode – Les 6

7. Perfect tense and past tense.

Delftse Methode – Les 7

8. Theological vocabulary

Delftse Methode – Les 8

9. Why Theological Dutch is often archaic/ old-fashioned.

Homework text to translate: Abraham Kuyper “Protestanten, Waakt!”
(https://sources.neocalvinism.org/archive/?num_image=1&id_image=11835)

Delftse Methode – Les 9

10. Irregular verbs

Homework text to translate: “Selection from Wiki Theology”

Delftse Methode – Les 10

11. Do’s and don’t of translation.

Homework text to translate: Herman Bavinck “Het Lutherfeest” (1883)

Delftse Methode – Les 11

12. Practice for exam/ Exam.

Attendance and participation: This course meets in person and is taught entirely through lecture and discussion. For this reason, it is crucial that students attend every class. If you cannot make a class, please email the instructor.

Grading:

Participation: 30%

Assignments: 30% Every week, students will be given texts to take home, read, and attempt to translate. These texts will be very basic at first, and will increase in difficulty through the semester. Students will be graded on good/ satisfactory/ unsatisfactory basis for each assignment.

Final exam: 40%

Required readings (The professor will provide copies of all readings)

A.G. Sciarone, *De Delftse methode – Nederlands voor Buitenlanders* (the Green book).

For additional reading (not required). Christine Baalen, Frans Blom, and Inez Hollander, *Dutch for Reading Knowledge* (John Benjamin's Publishing Co., 2012).

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course:
 Professor:
 Campus:
 Date:

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		Rubric <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None 	Mini-Justification
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.		Moderate. The focus is on written, historical texts, but not on oral exposition.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)		Strong. This course includes practice translating scriptures from Dutch to English.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.		Strong. This course explores theological writings.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.		n/a
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.		Moderate. Helps to provide a connection to theology/theologians in the Netherlands.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)		Minimal. Texts are primarily from within the Reformed tradition.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.		Minimal. Indirect. This is designed for scholars, and such scholarship may help to better understand scripture and traditions.