

Theological Dutch 2: Reading Source Texts

Syllabus

Reformed Theological Seminary, Spring 2027

In collaboration with Apeldoorn Theological University, Netherlands

Course: Theological Dutch II

Instructor: Lianne Kalkman-Mahdi, ResMA

Time: Wednesdays, 09:00-11:00 (six classes from February through May)

An online office-hour for contacting the instructor will be determined in consultation with the students.

Course Description: This is a 1-credit course in the Dutch language, designed to provide a second step in reading proficiency after a basic introductory course offered in the previous semester. The goal of this course is to improve students' ability to read and translate Dutch, particularly as the language is used in theological writings. Additionally, relevant grammatical subjects will be discussed, building on the knowledge acquired during the previous course.

Bibliography: The textbook for this course will be the newest edition of the "Delftse Methode – Het Groene Boek" (the Delft Method, the Green Book; hereafter DM), including the online audio component, available together from Boom publishers here: https://www.nt2.nl/en/product/100-17209_Nederlands-voor-anderstaligen-tekstboek. Literature to translate will be made available through Canvas during the semester, as well as suggestions for further reading. Please purchase the textbook as soon as possible because shipping delays from the Netherlands may occur.

Attendance and participation: This course meets entirely online and is taught through lecture and discussion. Learning a language requires a lot of repetition and practice. Attending and preparing each lecture is the best way to prepare for the exam. If you cannot make a class, please email the instructor.

Since this course takes place online, the instructor will be extra mindful of ways to ensure a stimulating learning environment. Multiple applications in Canvas will be used for preparation and consolidation of class material. This will also include a shared wordlist in which both instructor and students can track the vocabulary expansion throughout the semester. The wordlist will be part of the study material for the exam.

Grading:

Participation: 30% (For exceptions related to personal circumstances, please email the instructor.)

Assignments: 30% (Weekly course preparation includes reading and translating primary sources, increasing in difficulty over the course of the semester. Assignments will be graded good/satisfactory/unsatisfactory.)

Final exam: 40% (This will probably be an online, oral exam; details to be determined.)

Instructions for handing in translation exercises:

Before each class starts, submit a digital document (a – readable – scan of a handwritten translation is allowed) in Canvas via the ‘Assignments’ button. In class, we will discuss the translations. A translation should be annotated: you can mark as many parts of your working process as you want in your working document (verbal stems, words guessed based on context, (pro)nouns recognized, etc.). In this way, you show your instructor that you have taken the assignment seriously. In order to receive a good/satisfactory grade for this part of the class, it is not ultimately important that the translation is as flawless as possible (though try to do your best, of course!); rather, it is important that you show active engagement with the material and show that you have knowledge of the ‘skill’ of translation, via your annotations. Don’t be afraid to make mistakes along the way – that is how we learn!

Instructions for working with Delftse Methode:

Read the user manual on p. 10 in your textbook for a full explanation of the most effective way to integrate the physical and online teaching materials. The lessons follow a specific set-up, designed to help you learn the language with a natural flow. It is important that you take the time to listen to the audio files of each lesson and that you challenge yourself by doing the exercises. These do not need to be handed in for each class, but it is your responsibility to keep up with the pace of the book. Alert your instructor in a timely fashion if you fear you can’t keep up, so that she can assist you.

Technology Specifications:

In order to access Canvas, students and faculty need a reliable high-speed internet connection and an up-to-date browser (Chrome, Firefox recommended). Additional software and hardware needs include:

- Computer – Microsoft Windows or Mac OSX
- An active e-mail account (provided by RTS)
- Word processing (Written assignments are submitted as MS Word or PDF) (RTS provides a Microsoft Office user license to all active students)
- Zoom conferencing software

Additionally, some basic skills are necessary for using Canvas and Zoom

- Browse the internet by entering a web-address
- Navigate Canvas & Zoom using a computer, tablet, or mobile device
- Upload and download a file

For any Canvas-related issues, you can call or email the DE Students Service Departments (dess@rts.edu) or the DE Canvas Administrator (canvas.admin@rts.edu). After hours, you have access to 24/7 support through the Canvas Help Desk (Instructure).

Artificial Intelligence Policy (! Please read carefully !)

This class prohibits all use of AI-enabled tools. The only exception concerns students with learning disabilities (such as dyslexia or a visual impairment), who may use some AI-enabled tools to help them follow the course with the same level of ease and understanding as other students. If you think this applies to you, please contact your instructor to obtain permission (please do this as soon as possible, and at the least before you start using any AI-tools).

Outline of classes: The class will meet for 6 periods of 2 hours each. Some of the topics we will cover include (modifications might be made; discretion of the instructor) advanced grammar of the verbal system; complex sentences; clauses.

In order to consolidate the learned material from each class, it is advised that you spread out your preparations for each class over the course of the week. The more days you are actively engaging with a new language, the easier it is to make your newly acquired knowledge stick. Classes are on Wednesdays; you could, e.g., try to do some preparations on Mondays and some on Fridays. Or you could incorporate some Dutch Bible reading or listening to music/news broadcasts into your daily routine. Feel free to ask your instructor for tips on finding online resources! (There are many, even if you are only interested in Reformed materials 😊)

Week	Date/Datum	Class/College	Preparations/Vorbereidingen	Notes/Opmerkingen
5	3 februari 2027	1. Review: Grammar of last semester (without verbs); Grammar: comparatives/superlatives; Overview of sources and authors; HC Sunday 9, Q/A 26	Bereid voor: DM – Les 12 Theologische tekst om te vertalen: Sunday 9, question and answer 26 of the Heidelbergse Catechismus (refer to your translation of the Heidelbergse Catechismus in Plain Language from Oct. 7) Verdere voorbereiding: 1. Repeat the grammar parts of DM that we discussed last course: 10-12, 14; study grammar 11, 13 2. Vocabulary expansion: Study the vocabulary on DM p. 159 and on the maps on p. 160-161 3. Listen to this recording of a pastor reading aloud HC Q/A 26 during a church service (timestamps: 3:45-5:25)	februari = February; Dutch months are not capitalised The standard order in date notation is DD/MM/YY
7	17 februari 2027	2. Review: Grammar (verbs); Dordtse Leerregels	Bereid voor: DM – Les 13 Theologische tekst om te vertalen: part of the Canons of Dordt: chapter 5, article 3 (handout will be provided in class)	

			Verdere voorbereiding: 1. Repeat the grammar parts of DM that we discussed last course: 1-9, 15, 19, 23 (verbs) 2. Vocabulary expansion: Repeat the vocabulary on DM p. 159, study vocabulary of the map on p. 186 3. Watch and listen to this clip in which a pastor reads aloud chapter 5, article 3 (timestamps 04:10-05:01). Try to make out as many words as you can. When you have finished watching the reading, you can open the caption to the clip and read the written text of the article in Dutch. Watch the clip again, while reading along in Dutch.	
9	3 maart 2027	3. Grammar: Complex sentences; Miskotte	Bereid voor: DM – Les 14 Theologische tekst om te vertalen: K.H. Miskotte, <i>Bijbels ABC</i> (1941), 4.1 (available via Bijbels ABC - K.H. Miskotte - Google Boeken) Verdere voorbereiding: 1. Most of Miskotte's work has not been translated into English, though some of it has been. Please browse around in <i>When the Gods Are Silent</i>, available on archive.org (when the Gods are silent : kornelis h. miskotte : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive) to 'get to know' the author. 2. Grammar: Study DM grammar 13, 17-18 3. Vocabulary expansion: Repeat the vocabulary on DM p. 159, the maps on pages 160, 161 and 186, and mark new vocabulary from the lectures in the Canvas wordlist	maart = March

11	17 maart 2027	4. Grammar: A closer look at different types of clauses; Miskotte	Bereid voor: DM Les 15 Theologische tekst om te vertalen: K.H. Miskotte, <i>Bijbelsch ABC</i> (Nijkerk, 1941), 4.2 (available via Bijbels ABC - K.H. Miskotte - Google Boeken) Verdere voorbereiding: 1. Most of Miskotte's work has not been translated into English, though some of it has been. Please browse around in <i>When the Gods Are Silent</i>, available on archive.org (when the Gods are silent : kornelis h. miskotte : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive) to 'get to know' the author. 2. Grammar: study DM grammar 16, 21 3. Vocabulary expansion: Study the vocabulary on DM p. 185	
14	7 april 2027	5. Grammar: more verbs; Kuyper	Bereid voor: DM Les 16 Theologische tekst om te vertalen: Abraham Kuyper, <i>Conservatisme en orthodoxie: valse en ware behoudzucht</i> ('<i>Conservatism and Orthodoxy: False and True Preservation</i>') (Amsterdam, 1870), 10, available via Google Books Verdere voorbereiding: 1. Do some rehearsing of concepts you still struggle with. 2. Grammar: study DM grammar 20, 22; repeat grammar 23 3. Take a moment to reflect on how far you are with memorizing the Canvas wordlist – are you up to speed?	april = April
16	21 april 2027	6. Grammar: depending on students' needs/interests; Bavinck	Bereid voor: DM Les 12-16 Theologische tekst om te vertalen: Herman Bavinck, <i>Gereformeerde dogmatiek</i>, deel 1 (Kampen, 1895), 253, available via Google Books	

			Verdere voorbereiding: 1. Vocabulary expansion: Repeat the vocabulary on DM p. 159, 185 and the maps on p. 160-161, 186 2. Grammar: repeat DM grammar 1-23	
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Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Theological Dutch 2

Instructor: Lianne Kalkman-Mahdi, ResMA

Campus: Online

Date: Filled in October 13, 2026, concerning Spring Term 2027

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> 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. *As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.		<u>Rubric</u> • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
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.

