

The Language Situation in the Low Countries

Lecture 1. The languages of the Netherlands and Belgium

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Aims for today

Preliminaries

- about this course
- practicalities

The Saxon and Franconian elements – the languages of the Netherlands and Belgium – their status and vitality.

- terminology: a few definitions
- the territory
- Dutch and its neighbours

A few house rules

Attendance

- 80% attendance
- come on time
- running late? → enter quietly, don't knock, don't apologise

In-class interaction

- you're encouraged to ask questions
- as well as answer my questions

Course topics

11/02/2016 Introduction: the languages of the Netherlands and Belgium

18/02/2016 Essentials of the Dutch language

25/02/2016 continued from 18th February

03/03/2016 The history of Dutch

10/03/2016 continued from 3rd March

17/03/2016 Dutch orthography

14/04/2016 Purism and school grammar

21/04/2016 Dialects of Dutch; Frisian

28/04/2016 Dutch-based creole languages; Afrikaans

05/05/2016 Dutch sociolinguistics

Exam

- There will be a written exam in May.

Course book

Willemyns, Roland. 2013. *Dutch: biography of a language*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Nestor

Nestor › The Lang. Situation in the Low Countries

- **announcements**
- **course documents**
- **weekly schedule**

A couple of definitions: The Low Countries



Figure 1: Locating the Low Countries

Dutch and its neighbours

- Dutch vs. Flemish
- flamand vs. hollandais vs. néerlandais
- Nederlands vs. Vlaams vs. Hollands

Dutch and its neighbours

- French
- German
- Frisian

Relation to other languages

Official status

- in the Netherlands
- in Belgium

. . .

European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)

- **The Netherlands:** both signed and ratified
- **Belgium:** neither signed nor ratified

Useful links on Dutch

- Taalportaal <http://taalportaal.org/taalportaal/topic/>
- more to come

