

East Asian Ideologies (A003043)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 2)	English	Gent
B (semester 2)	English	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Anderl, Christoph	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Dessein, Bart	LW21	co-lecturer
Uhl, Christian	LW21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (China Track))	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (UGent Track))	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	5	A
Micro-credential China in Context	5	A
Exchange Programme Cultures and Languages in Context	5	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	5	A
Elective Set Culture and Society	5	A
Elective Set Religion Studies	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

East Asia, ideologies, philosophy, religion, Confucianism, Daoism, Mohism, Legalism, Shinto, Japanese Buddhism, Modern Chinese philosophy, Modern Japanese philosophy

Position of the course

This advanced course helps students understand the different philosophical systems of East-Asia. The course gives the students insight into how the different philosophies of East Asia were formed by East-Asian culture and how they have shaped these cultures. The course shows students the importance of these philosophies for contemporary China and Japan.

Contents

East Asia philosophies are explained in their socio-political context. For China, the philosophies discussed are Confucianism, Daoism, Mohism, Legalism, Neo-Confucianism, and modern developments of Chinese philosophy. For Japan, Shintoism, Buddhism, early Confucianism, Neo-Confucianism, its main critics, and some of the main ideologies of the modern period, such as Liberalism, Nationalism, Socialism, or Feminism.

The importance of these traditional philosophical systems for a good understanding of the contemporary political, social and economical situation of East-Asia is illustrated. The adaptation of these different systems to historical and contemporary situations is explained.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the courses "History of Philosophy" (BA1, for (Approved)

Sinology and Japanology), 'History of China' (BA1, for Sinology) and 'History of Japan' (BA1, for Japanology), or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to explain the different philosophical systems of East Asia.
- 2 To be able to explain the mutual influence the different philosophical systems have had.
- 3 To be able to explain social and political phenomena in the history of East Asia from the philosophical traditions of East Asia.
- 4 To be able to explain the present-day social, economical and political phenomena of East Asia from the philosophical traditions.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

In formal lectures, philosophical content and social and political importance of the different philosophical systems and their interaction are addressed.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Syllabus

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint presentations

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

not applicable

Course content-related study coaching

The classes are organized in the form of lectures and discussions are moderated by the lecturer.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment moment

Periodical: exam (100%)

Assessment form

A written examination (open and closed questions) tests the student's comprehension of the philosophical statements discussed during the classes and

philosophical statements from the reading list. The examination focuses on the understanding of philosophical statements and on their understanding of the mutual interactions of philosophies and their social impact.

There is a separate examination for sinology and for japanology students.

Calculation of the examination mark

Both for sinology and for japanology students, the examination amount to 100 % of the final mark.

Students have to pass **both parts** of the periodical assessment (Japan: classical Chinese philosophy / religion + Japanese philosophy / religion; China: classical Chinese philosophy / religion + post-Song Dynasty until modern Chinese philosophy / religion).

Students who obtain a mark of less than 10/20 for one of the two parts cannot pass the course evaluation. Should the average mark be higher than 10/20, the final mark will be reduced to the highest non-pass mark (= 9).

Facilities for Working Students

1. Student attendance during educational activities is required
 2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
 3. Feedback can be given by email or during an appointment during office hours
- For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy