

Buddhism (A002927)

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

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2) English Gent independent work
lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Anderl, Christoph LW21 lecturer-in-charge
Heirman, Ann LW21 co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	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 and its Background	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

Buddhism, India, China, Japan

Position of the course

This course gives a general historical and geographical overview of the different Buddhist schools. The course teaches students to place the various Buddhist schools within their respective social context. It aims at preparing students to understand research on the historical, doctrinal and philosophical developments within Buddhism.

Contents

In the course, an overview of the historical, doctrinal and philosophical developments of Buddhist schools in India, Central Asia, China and Japan is provided. They are discussed in their social and cultural context, with special emphasis on the East Asian culture sphere. Maps and iconographical material are used throughout the course. In addition, the students are requested to choose some themes for a more detailed study, based on the reading of scholarly articles (chosen out of a list of articles provided through Ufora) or based on the lecture series on Buddhism.

Initial competences

- To have successfully completed the course History of China or History of South and Central Asia or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means (preferable).
- To have a good knowledge of English.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to differentiate the different Buddhist schools and their development.

- 2 To be able to deal in a comprehensive way with questions concerning Southeast Asian and East Asian Buddhism.
- 3 To be able to give a general historical and geographical overview of the different Buddhist schools.
- 4 To be able to situate different Buddhist schools in their social context.
- 5 To be able to start understand research into the historical, doctrinal and philosophical developments within Buddhism.

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

Lectures: the historical, doctrinal and philosophical developments within Buddhism are explained by a lecturer.

Independent work: detailed analysis of some aspects of Buddhism, on the basis of two scholarly articles (chosen out a list provided via Ufora), or on the basis of the lecture series Buddhism.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint presentations
 Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
 Optional: no
 Language : English
 Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Handouts

Name: short handouts
 Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
 Optional: no
 Language : English
 Available on Ufora : Yes
 Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly
 Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly
 Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Type: Other

Name: reader (articles)
 Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
 Optional: no
 Language : English
 Available on Ufora : Yes
 Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly
 Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time
 Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

References

Course content-related study coaching

The seminars are conducted by the lecturers, who also can be contacted for extra questions.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral 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: oral examination (100%)

Assessment form

Oral examination, testing the ability of the student to explain the developments within Buddhism and the reasons of these developments. Apart from general questions and more detailed questions, questions will be asked on issues discussed in detail during the course, and on the topics (articles or lectures) chosen by the student.

Calculation of the examination mark

The examination consists of three parts: 1) background of Buddhism, the life of the Buddha, the Buddhist community, and the geographical spread of Buddhism (40%); 2) the Buddhist doctrine (40%); 3) analysis of some topics, based on two scholarly articles chosen by the student, or based on the lecture series of Buddhism (20%).

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from certain educational activities requiring student attendance.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year.
3. Alternative time for feedback is possible.