GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Society and Current Affairs: China (A003042)

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

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)	English	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Dessein, Bart	LW21	lecturer-in-charge

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
Micro-credential China in Context	5	A
Exchange Programme Cultures and Languages in Context	5	A
Exchange Programme Global Studies and World Societies	5	A
Exchange Programme History	5	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	5	A
Elective Set Culture and Society	5	A
Elective Set Languages of Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Contemporary China, homeland politics, international relations, army, nationalism, demography, economy, justice, religion, education, society.

Position of the course

This advanced course gives students knowledge about China's homeland political situation, its international position (including military and geopolitical questions), economic structures, social system, and juridical situation (including constitutional freedoms). These topics are discussed within a larger historical setting.
Exchange students may take up this course unit, for which no prior knowledge of Dutch is required.

Contents

Starting from different case studies, contemporary Chinese society is analysed. This analysis is embedded in a historical setting: contemporary China is explained from its economic, political, philosophical, and social history.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the course 'History of China' (BA1) and 'Introduction to World History' (BA1) or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

1 1. To be able to explain the political structures of China from their historical background;
2 2. To understand and be able to argument the international political and military

position of China;
3 3. To be able to explain the economic structures of China from their historical background;
4 4. To be able to explain the social relationships from their historical and philosophical background;
5 5. To be able to explain the demographic, ethnic, and social situation of China from their historical backgrounds;
6 6. To know and be able to explain the Chinese juridical system and the Chinese constitutional freedoms from their historical backgrounds;
7 7. To have an insight into the religious life of China from its historical background.

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

In formal lectures, different subjects are discussed using case studies.

No recordings are provided.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: China: A diversified landscape
Indicative price: € 10
Optional: no
Language : English
Number of Pages : 250
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No

References

- A. Heirman, B. Dessein and D. Delporte. *China. Een maatschappelijke en filosofische geschiedenis van de vroegste tijden tot het begin van de twintigste eeuw.* Gent: Academia Press, 2001. (price: 19,70 EUR)
- E. R. Wolf, *Peasants*, Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall, 1966.

Course content-related study coaching

The classes are partly organized in the form of discussions with the students. This makes immediate feedback possible.

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

end-of-term assessment: exam (100%)
• Questions on knowledge of and insight into the subject matter.

Calculation of the examination mark

end-of-term assessment: exam (100%)

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