GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Modern Chinese I (A005168)

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

Credits 10.0 **Study time 300 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)	Chinese, Dutch	Gent	practical

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Liu, Jun	LW21	staff member
Torck, Mathieu	LW21	staff member
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))	10	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (UGent Track))	10	A
Bachelor of Science in Economics	10	A
Bachelor of Science in Economics (Double Degree)	10	A
Elective Set Languages of Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe	10	A

Teaching languages

Chinese, Dutch

Keywords

Modern Chinese, oral language, written language, grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, listening comprehension, reading, translation

Position of the course

This basic course helps students understand the position of Northern Chinese (Modern Chinese) as the standard language of China. The course teaches them the elementary vocabulary and basic structures of Modern Chinese. Students will be taught how to translate sentences of an elementary level from Chinese to Dutch and vice versa. They are taught the elementary skills in listening comprehension, reading comprehension, writing skills, oral skills, and grammatical analysis.

Contents

By means of dialogues and texts on specific situations in everyday life in China, the elementary vocabulary and basic grammatical structures of Chinese are taught and practised. The students learn how to write, read, pronounce and understand the vocabulary. They learn how to use this vocabulary and the grammar both orally and in written form.

Initial competences

Knowledge of Dutch grammar (secondary education)

Final competences

1 1. To have an understanding of the position of Northern Chinese (Modern Chinese) as the standard language of China;
2 2. To have an elementary oral and written knowledge of the Chinese language;
3 3. To be able to make elementary translations from Dutch to Chinese, and vice versa;
4 4. To have mastered elementary listening comprehension;
5 5. To be able to read and write the elementary vocabulary of Modern Chinese;
6 6. To understand the basic structures of the syntax of Modern Chinese, and to be able to analyse and use them;

7 7. To be able to have a dialogue at an elementary level with a native speaker.

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

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Practical

Extra information on the teaching methods

In formal lectures, the theoretical framework, the basic vocabulary and the grammar are explained by a lecturer. The practical language acquisition classes (oral and written translation exercises, listening and speaking exercises, writing exercises) are offered by language lecturers and native speakers.

No recordings are provided.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Integrated Chinese 1, Textbook, Workbook, en Character Workbook (door: Yuehua Liu)
Indicative price: € 150
Optional: no

References

Li, Charles N. and Sandra A. Thompson, *Mandarin Chinese. A Functional Reference Grammar*. University of California Press, 1989.
Cheung Hung-nin Samuel, et al., *A practical Chinese grammar.* Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 1994.
Wiedenhof, Jeroen, *A Grammar of Mandarin*. Amsterdam/Philodelphia: John Benjamins Publishing, Company, 2015.
Ross, Claudia and Jing-heng Sheng Ma, *Modern Mandarin Chinese Grammar. A Practical Guide*. London and New York: Routledge, 2017.

Course content-related study coaching

In the practical language acquisition classes, all theoretical knowledge is immediately put into practice. These classes consist of conversation exercises, listening exercises, and written exercises. In the conversation exercises, immediate feedback is possible. The written translation exercises are corrected by the language lecturer and discussed with the individual student. This guarantees a quick feedback for the individual student.
The students have the opportunity to individually and at personal pace make translation exercises. When needed, these are discussed individually with the student.
Oral and written exercises are supported also through Ufora.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment, Written assessment

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

Oral assessment, Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Written assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment moment
Continuous: (20 %) and End-of-term (80%) assessment

Assessment form

Continous assessment (20 %): On a test moment during the semester, the knowledge of the vocabulary and grammar is tested. This is done through a dictation, written translation exercises (Dutch-Chinese and Chinese-Dutch), grammatical analysis, listening comprehension and speaking skills.
End-of-term assessment (80 %): The end-of-term exam consists of three parts: (1) listening and speaking comprehension, (2) reading and writing comprehension, and (3) translation and grammatical analysis. The part listening and speaking comprehension consists of a test on listening comprehension and a test on conversation skills (with a native speaker). The part writing is a dictation. The part translation and grammatical analysis consists of a written and oral translation Dutch-Chinese and Chinese-Dutch, as well as an exercise on grammatical analysis (written).
(If a student does not pass for the whole of the continuous assessment and the end-of-term assessment, there is a possibility to do a resit exam and the second examination period. This exam consist of the complete subject matter and all parts (listening and speaking comprehension, reading and writing comprehension, and translation and grammatical analysis) (100%).)

Calculation of the examination mark

Continuous evaluation (20 %) + periodic evaluation (80 %). The student has to pass for each of the three parts of the continuous and periodic evaluation ((1) listening and speaking comprehension, (2) reading and writing comprehension, and (3) translation and grammatical analysis) separately, as well as for the total 100 %.
Students who do not take part in the assessment of one or more parts of the course evaluation or obtain a mark of less than 10/20 for one of its 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

Facilities:
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 during an appointment during office hours

Extra information:
For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy