GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Oriental Literature: China (A005171)

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)	Dutch	Gent	seminar
			lecture
			independent work

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
Elective Set Languages of Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe	5	A
Elective Set Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

literature, China

Position of the course

This advanced course helps students to understand the difference between 'literature' in the Western and in the Chinese context. The course introduces them to the main Chinese authors of the different literary genres and to their most important works. The course helps students understand the evolution of literary style and themes of the main Chinese literary genres. The course explains evolutions in style and theme from a socio-cultural background and within a socio-literary context. The course also addresses the phenomenon of transcontinental literary influence.

Contents

Using extracts from the main literary works of China, the students are taught how the concept 'literature' in the Chinese context differs from the one in European context.
Using extracts from the main literary works of China, an overview is given of the evolution in style and theme within the main literary genres of China. Also transcontinental influence of style and theme are illustrated. The students have to independently read one contemporary CHinese novel and interpret this novel in the light of the subject matter taught.

Initial competences

- To have a basic knowledge of English and French.

Final competences

1 1. To be able to do a critical reading of the Chinese literature.
2 2. To be able to conduct independent literary studies
3 3. To understand the difference between 'literature' in Western and in Chinese

context.
4 4. To have knowledge of the main Chinese authors of the different literary genres and their most important works.
5 5. To understand the evolution of literary style and themes of the main Chinese literary genres.
6 6. To be able to explain evolutions in style and theme from a socio-cultural background and within the Chinese socio-literary context.
7 7. To have an insight into the phenomenon of transcontinental literary influence.

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

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- By means of formal lectures, the most important theoretical aspects of the course are addressed.
- The extracts from literary works read by the students (reading list) are discussed in the classes,
- Independent work: students have to read one contemporary Chinese novel (reading list) independently.

No recordings are provided.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Asian Literatures: China
Indicative price: € 10
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Number of Pages : 200
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No

References

reading list

Course content-related study coaching

Seminars are conducted by a 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

Written examination with open questions and closed questions (on knowledge) (70 % of the total). Open questions on the contemporary novel individually read (30 % of the total).

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical exam counts for 100%.

Facilities for Working Students

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