GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Bachelor's Essay (A005233)

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 (Year)	Dutch	Gent	independent work
			peer teaching
			seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Goddeeris, Anne	LW21	staff member
Pinte, Klaus	LW21	staff member
Torck, Mathieu	LW21	staff member
Dessein, Bart	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Anderl, Christoph	LW21	co-lecturer
Dayeh, Islam	LW21	co-lecturer
De Clercq, Eva	LW21	co-lecturer
De Simone, Daniela	LW21	co-lecturer
Franke, Lisa	LW21	co-lecturer
Heirman, Ann	LW21	co-lecturer
Kreil, Aymon	LW21	co-lecturer
Markiewicz, Christopher	LW03	co-lecturer
Niehaus, Andreas	LW21	co-lecturer
Uhl, Christian	LW21	co-lecturer
Van Steenbergen, Jo	LW21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)	5	A
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

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Research practice, bachelor paper, Arabic & Islamic studies, Indology, Sinology, Japanology

Position of the course

For 'Bachelor's Essay', the student has to write a scientific paper in which he/she further practices and develops the competences acquired in 'Method and Research: Arabic and Islamic studies, South and East Asia 1 and 2' (Indology, Sinology, Japanology). In this research and writing assesment, the student has to acquire scientific competences concerning a given topic that relates to the research field. He has to provide a status questionis of the research on this topic. The student learns how to use scientific literature, including literature in the target language. He/she has also to be able to contextualise this literature; He further develops skills for problem analysis, and redaction skills. The purpose is to write a scientific

paper and to give an oral presentation to an audience of academic staff, assistants and peers. The bachelor paper is the final outcome of the studies BA Oriental languages and cultures. In this paper, the student has to prove to have acquired the language and reseerch competences of BA level.

Contents

Under guidance of academic staff/promotor, the student has to choose a topic within the research field of Oriental languages and cultures. This topic is researched, using scientific literature (including literature in the target language). He/she interpretes and contextualizes this scientific source material, using methods learnt in previous methodological courses and research courses. The student makes himself familiar with the basic research sources for his/her topic, the basic knowledge, and the interpretations of the sources. He also knows the evolution of the research concerned. The student perfections him/herself in formulating a concrete research question, and in drafting an academic bibliography.
The students have to be able to both orally and in written form formulate their research results in a structured, comprehensive and accurate way.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the standard trajectory of BA 2 Oriental Languages and Cultures, or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.
Knowledge of English and French.
Be aware of the possibilities and limitations of the use of Artificial Intelligence.

Final competences

1 1. Being able to make a status quaestionis on a research question;
2 2. Being able to scientifically frame a research question;
3 3. Being able to scientifically frame a research question;
4 4. Being able to critically assess the pending scientific discussion;
5 5. Being able to independently translate a text from an Oriental language;
6 6. Being able to culturally and historically frame a text in an Oriental language;
7 7. Being able to work independently scientifically;
8 8. Being able to meet the substantive requirements of a scientific presentation;
9 9. Being able to meet the formal requirements of a scientific presentation.

Conditions for credit contract

This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Independent work, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

- integration seminar/guided exercises: Using the university library, students are guided in the first research activities by lecturers/assistants.
- PGO-tutorial: In the form of a project, the subject of which is discussed with the supervisor, the students have to show that they master the subject matter of the different courses of the BA program, and that they can apply this contents independently to the chosen subject.
- independent work: paper
- microteaching: At the end of the academic year, the students have to orally report on the results of their project to their supervisor, assistants and peers.
- Bachelor's Essay: This project and its oral presentation is the Bachelor's Essay of the program of Oriental Languages and Cultures.

Study material

None

References

Arabic & Islamic Studies:

R. St. Humphreys, *Islamic History. A Framework for Inquiry*. Revised Edition (Princeton: Princeton UP 1991)

Indology:
L. RENOU - J. FILLIOZAT. *L'Inde classique. Manuel d'études indiennes*, 2 vols, Paris 1947-1953. J. Gonda. *A History of Indian Literature* (10 Vols.). Wiesbaden: O. Harrassowitz, 1973-1987.

Sinology:
Endymion Wilkinson. *Chinese History. A Manual.* Harvard-Yenching Institute Monograph Series 84. Cambridge and London: Harvard University Press, 2012.

Japanology:
copies

Course content-related study coaching

The bachelor's thesis is supervised by a supervisor chosen from among the professors or doctoral assistants. A supervisor from another program is not eligible as supervisor of the bachelor's thesis. The supervisor acts as a point of contact and consultant regarding the construction and elaboration of the Bachelor's thesis. The student reports at regular intervals on the progress in terms of research work, problem definition, analysis and the like, and addresses the following aspects: relevance of the literature gathered; accessibility, applicability and usefulness of the information; research questions related to the topic; problems hoped to be solved as well as the manner in which; feasibility of the topic, etc.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Students are required to submit their written paper of at least 10,000 words and report orally on this paper to their supervisor, teachers and fellow students. The paper and oral reporting will be assessed on:
(1) Academic depth:
- Status quaestionis on the research question;
- Scientific framing of the research question;
- Familiarity with the pending scientific discussion on the research question;
- Critical stance with respect to the research question;

(2) Content:
- Quality of introduction and conclusion;
- Elaboration of the treatise;
- Quality of translations from the target language;
- Use of secondary literature in the target language

(3) Methodological approach and terminological correctness
(4) Structure
(5) Scientific language use
(6) Technical correctness:
- Quality and academic correctness of footnotes or endnotes
- Quality and academic correctness of bibliography

Calculation of the examination mark

The written paper counts for 80 % of the total score, the oral report for 20 %. 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

1. Student attendance during educational activities is required

2. The examination cannot be rescheduled
3. Alternative time for feedback is possible
For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy