GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Bungo I (A005334)

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 1)	Dutch	Gent	seminar
			independent work
			lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Uhl, Christian	LW21	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	**crdts**	**offering**
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

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Classical Japanese, bungo, Japanese language

Position of the course

The term "classical Japanese" commonly translates the Japanese word, "bungo", meaning "written language". Bungo is the written idiom, which emerged over a millenium ago and remained relatively unchanged throughout the centuries until the 20th century. Even today - in a time in which a new written standard based on the colloquial, so called "modern" Japanese (kougo) has replaced the traditional bungo standard - bungo it is still used in traditional style Japanese poetry (waka). Knowledge of bungo is a key skill to access independently historical texts and documents, most of which aren't available in translation and thus it is arguably indispensable for any serious academic engagement with Japan's cultural and historical heritage. This course lays the foundation that is necessary for an effective study of "bungo".

Contents

By means of lectures and illustrating examples the course introduces the participants into the history and structure of the Japanese language and of the Japanese writing system. In extensive practical exercises the students learn to read and write Japanese (kana) and Chinese (kanji) characters, not only by hand, but also by means of their computers. The students also learn how to use bi-lingual character dictionaries in the form of old-school books as well as of e-tools. The students accommodate themselves with basic grammatical terminology, and with the particulars of bungo (in contrast to kougo) orthography. Attention is paid to the similarities and the difference between so-called classical (bungo), and so-called modern Japanese (kougo).

Initial competences

To have a solid passive knowledge of English.

Final competences

1 Having a solid grasp of the historical evolution of the Japanese script, and of the particulars of bungo and kougo orthography
2 Being able to use bi-lingual character dictionaries

3 Having mastered the two kana scripts and having acquired a foundational knowledge of approximately 300 Chinese characters.
4 Understanding the relation between modern and classical Japanese.
5 Having acquired a stock of basic grammatical terminology for both, "modern" and "klassical" Japanese
6 Being able to apply basic digital methods, tools and strategies in dealing with classical and modern Japanese.

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

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

On campus (recordings only individually and if required).

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: The New Nelson Japanese-English Character Dictionary Hardcover
Indicative price: € 60
Optional: no
Language : English
Author : Andrew N. Nelson & John H. Haig
ISBN : 0-804-82036-8
Number of Pages : 1616
Alternative : none
Oldest Usable Edition : 1997
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : Yes
Available through Student Association : No
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : intensive
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : regularly
Additional information: The book in question is the most widely used Japanese-English character dictionary. You have decided to study Japanese. As a consequence you need to purchase this book.

Type: Syllabus

Name: lecture scripts
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Other
Number of Pages : 100
Oldest Usable Edition : none
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No
Additional information: The lecture scripts are authored by the lecturer, Christian Uhl, and summarize the content per lecture that is relevant for the exam.

Type: Audiovisual Material

Name: video material
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : not

Additional information: Video material over the classification of parts of speech in Japanese, crated by the lecturer, Christian Uhl

References

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support via MS TEams of e-mail of in my office on appointment

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

Assessment
Periodical: written examination (100%)

Calculation of the examination mark

The periodical assessment (= written examination) counts for 100%.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Participation in the educational activities is required
2. The examination cannot be rescheduled.
3. Feedback can be given during an appointment during office hours.