GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Bungo II (A005335)

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	lecture
			seminar
			independent work

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

This course is the first of four subsequent courses (Bungo II, III, IV, and V) that form an integral whole and introduce you in 16 exercises in total into the most significant grammatical phenomena and structures that distinguish *bungo* (so-called “classical Japanese”) from the spoken language (so-called “modern Japanese”; on the distinction of the two, please, consult the section "Position of the course" for the course Bungo I). In this course, Bungo II, you will be made familiar with the verbs (*dōshi*) and their inflexion forms and classes, with the inflexion of adjectives (*keiyōshi*) and verbal adjectives (*keiyōdōshi*) and that of auxiliary verbal suffixes (*jodōshi*), as well as a couple of additional minor issues. By means of extensive practical exercises you will learn to analyze and translate shorter *bungo* texts and text fragments from ancient times to the modern period. These texts will also serve us as vehicles to make excursions into the realms of social, cultural and intellectual history in order to situate the texts properly in their specific contexts.

Contents

In the four exercises of the course Bungo II you will be systematically introduced into the inflection of adjectives and verbal adjectives (exercise 1), of the verbs (exercise 2) and the auxiliary verbal suffixes “zu” (verbal negation, exercise 3) and “mu” (conjecture, exercise 4). You will also encounter a couple of particles and other parts of speech, that are exquisite features of *bungo* as well, but do not deserve whole exercises of their own. In addition you will be systematically introduced into the grammatical theory and the logic of *bungo* and of Japanese in general. The four exercises are composed of careful selections of shorter authentic *bungo* texts such as proverbs, aphorisms, book- and movie titles, *tanka* and *haiku* poems and shorter fragments from prose texts. These exquisite selections cover the entire *bungo* universe, stretching from poems in the oldest imperial poetry collection to the refrain of the Japanese version of the song of the Socialist International Students' Association as it was sung during the anti-Vietnam War protests in the late 1960s, and from early Japanese renderings of Confucius' *Rongo* (*Lunyu*) to passages from the modern protestant standard translation of the Bible. These texts will also allow us to leave every now and then the realm of grammar

and language, and to venture on the exiting territories of history, literature, religion, philosophy and politics in the pre-modern as well as in modern times.

Initial competences

- This course is based on the knowledge acquired in the course Bungo I.
- To have a solid passive knowledge of English.

Final competences

1 Having a more profound grasp of the fundamental logical and grammatical structure of so-called "classical Japanese" (bungo). Being familiar with the inflexion of the inflectable parts of speech, and the use and behavior of non-inflectables, also in comparison with the moden colloquial (kougo)
2 Being familiar with the inflexion of conjugating parts of speech, as well as with the function of non-inflecting words, also in comparison to the modern vernacular (kougou).
3 Being familiar with the use of inflexion tables and similar tools which will be useful also in the subsequent courses on bungo
4 Being able to analyze and translate shorter authentic texts situated within the horizon of the grammatical phenomena taught in the course
5 Having expanded your vocabulary and character knowledge and your arsenal of grammatical terms and concepts to analyze and tackle bungo
6 Having enriched your knowledge of literary and cultural history, religion, philosophy and political thought in pre-modern and modern Japan
7 Having established a sort of love relationship with so-called Classical Japanese

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

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.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: The New Nelson Japanese-English Character Dictionary Hardcover
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Author : Andrew N. Nelson & John H. Haig
ISBN : 978-0-80482-036-3
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 : regularly
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : regularly
Additional information: The price of this book is about EUR 60. However, you should have bought a copy of this book already as a mandatory reference work for the previous course, Bungo I.

Type: Syllabus

Name: exercises & grammatical commentaries
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Number of Pages : 130
Oldest Usable Edition : none
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No
Additional information: The exercises and commentaries are created by the lecturer, Christian Uhl, and are made available via Ufora.

Type: Audiovisual Material

Name: Bungo Videos
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 about the grammar and grammatical analysis of the exercise texts and their background, created by your lecturer, Christian Uhl

References

Course content-related study coaching

Via MS- Teams, Skype, e-mail, or with appointment on campus.

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

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation
Examination methods
Written examination

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 or online via MS Teams.