GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Bungo IV (A005337)

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	independent work
			seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Pinte, Klaus	LW21	staff member
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

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Classical Japanese (*bungo*), Japanese language

Position of the course

This course is the third 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 or *kōgo* (so-called “modern Japanese”; on the distinction of the two, please, consult the section "Position of the course" for the course "Bungo I").
Here, you will make the acquaintance of several *bungo*-specific auxiliary verbal suffixes and other grammatical issues. By means of extensive practical exercises you will learn to analyze and understand grammatically more complex *bungo* texts and text fragments from ancient times to the modern period.
These texts will also provide us again with plenty of opportunities to explore the social, cultural and intellectual history of Japan and to expand your Japanological expertise and repertoire.

Contents

In the four exercises of the course Bungo IV (exrcises 9-12), you will encounter the perfective *jodōshi* “*ri*” and “*tari*” (exercise 9), become familiar with the *jodōshi* of epic past, “*keri*”, and face a grammatical tribulation called the “*kakari musubi*-rule” (exercise 10). You will stumble repeatedly over the confusing conjunctive particle “*de*” (exercise 11), and eventually you will learn to handle the polysemous *jodōshi* “*beshi*” (exercise 12).
You will enjoy canonical and exotic ancient and modern poetry including the Japanese version of the socialist Internationale, or a rare translation of Goethe’s Song of Mignon. Yet, our accumulating grammatical knowledge will also allow us to read our first longer passages from prose texts in classical and modern *bungo*, from the notorious *Taketori monogatari to* the first lines of Mori Ōgai’s sublime novel, *Maihime*, or a passage taken from a modern law book.
In a nutshell: in Bungo IV too we will not only further enhance our grammatical skills and insights, but also embark again on a convoluted journey through the cultural, political and intellectual history of Japan, and through all kinds of manifestations and varieties of *bungo*.

Initial competences

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

Final competences

1 Systematically understand more complex grammatical structures of Classical Japanese.
2 Analyzing and translating original source material by using dictionaries and other linguistic tools
3 Grasping significant texts in their historical, religio-philosophical, social and cultural contexts
4 Knowing (Classical) Japanese vocabulary and characters, as well as grammatical terms and concepts to analyze and tackle bungo
5 Being able to explain the evolution of the Japanese writing system and written language.
6 Useing digital methods, tools and recourses (dictionairs, etc.).

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, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

On campus, participation is mandatory.

Study material

Type: Other

Name: Ufora course material and online dictionaries
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
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 : intensive
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally
Additional information: Laptop required.

References

Course content-related study coaching

Guidance via Ufora en Teams.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Written assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

- Non-periodical assessments: written assignments and active participation
- Periodical assessment: oral examination (on campus)

Calculation of the examination mark

- Non-perodical assessments: 25%
- Oral examination: 75%

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.