GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Dissertation Seminar (A005571)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 10.0 **Study time 300 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (Year)	Dutch, English	Gent
B (Year)	Dutch, English	Gent
C (Year)	Dutch, English	Gent
D (Year)	Dutch, English	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Torck, Mathieu	LW21	staff member
Dessein, Bart	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Anderl, Christoph	LW21	co-lecturer
Andreeva, Anna	LW21	co-lecturer
De Clercq, Eva	LW21	co-lecturer
De Simone, Daniela	LW21	co-lecturer
Heirman, Ann	LW21	co-lecturer
Kreil, Aymon	LW21	co-lecturer
Niehaus, Andreas	LW21	co-lecturer
Uhl, Christian	LW21	co-lecturer
Vekemans, Tine	LW21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures)	10	A, B, C, D
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China)	10	A, B, C, D
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	10	A, B, C, D
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	10	A, B, C, D
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Middle East Studies)	10	A, B, C, D

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Research, languages and cultures, Middle East studies, indology, sinology, japanology

Position of the course

This advanced course creates a framework in which the student further develops and perfections the competences acquired during his/her bachelor curriculum. This is done through individual assignments. The assignments the students are expected to carry out are mainly related to the Master's Dissertation and are, as such, in accordance with the specific requirements of the type of scientific research that is peculiar for the research group. Although the specific tasks may vary according to research group, all groups apply a common philosophy and working methods. This course is a continuation of 'Bachelor's Essay' of the Bachelor 3 program Oriental Languages and Cultures.

Contents

The course unit 'dissertation seminar' is the methodological support for the Master thesis. In function of the Master theis, students are guided in the development and analysis of their individual research assignment. In addition to specific research-related methodological skills, language competences also play an important role. Oral and written presentations and reporting skills are emphasized.

Initial competences

Main subject Middle Eastern studies:

- To have a good knowledge of the political, social, and cultural history of the Middle East;
- To have intermediary knowledge of Media Arabic;
- To have intermediary knowledge of Egyptian Arabic;
- To have a good knowledge of the Arabo-Islamic heritage;
- To have a good knowledge of the main scholarly methods, theories and paradigms of Middle East studies;
- To have successfully completed 'Bachelor's Essay';
- To have receptive and productive knowledge of French and English;
- Be aware of the possibilities and limitations of the use of Artificial Intelligence.

Main subject India:

- To have a good knowledge of the history of South Asia;
- To have knowledge of Indian language;
- To be conversant with the tools for scholarly indological research;
- To successfully have completed 'Bachelor's Essay';
- Passive and active knowledge of English;
- Be aware of the possibilities and limitations of the use of Artificial Intelligence.

Main subject China:

- To have a good knowledge of the history of China and East Asia;
- To have a profound knowledge of Modern Chinese;
- To have a profound knowledge of Classical Chinese;
- To be conversant with the instruments used in scholarly sinological research;
- To have successfully completed 'Bachelor's Essay';
- To have passive and active knowledge of French and English;
- Be aware of the possibilities and limitations of the use of Artificial Intelligence.

Main subject Japan:

- To have a good knowledge of the history of East Asia;
- To have a profound knowledge of Modern Japanese;
- To have a profound knowledge of Classical Japanese;
- To be conversant with the instruments used in scholarly japanological research:
- have a basic knowledge of the instruments used in scientific japanological research;
- To have successfully completed ‘Bachelor's Essay’;
- To have a passive knowledge of French and English;
- Be aware of the possibilities and limitations of the use of Artificial Intelligence.

Final competences

1 To be able to use a primary source for scholarly research;
2 To be able to use secondary source materials;
3 To be able to express a theoretical argumentation in writing;
4 To be able to express a theoretical argumentation orally;
5 To be able to use the university library's electronic databases (including E-journals);
6 To be able to write up a scholarly bibliography (literature review);
7 To be able to write a scholarly abstract in Arabic, Hindi, Chinese, or Japanese.

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

The emphasis is on self-relient study activities for which students receive guidance from the advisor of the Master's dissertation and that is refined and presented

through seminars.

No recordings are provided.

Study material

None

References

For Middle East Studies:
Index Islamicus Online
Encyclopaedia of Islam: THREE
International Journal of Middle East Studies
Middle East Studies Association Bulletin
Review of Middle East Studies
Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Oreint
For Indian languages:
L.Renou and J.Filliozat. *L'Inde classique* (vol.1 & 2)
For Chinese:
E. Wilkinson. *Chinese History. A Manual.* Revised and Enlarged. Harvard-Yenching Institute Monograph Series 84. Cambridge MA en London: Harvard University Asia Center, 2012
For Japanese:
Oguma, Eiji. *A Genealogy of 'Japanese Self-Images'*. Portland: Trans Pacific Press, 2002.
What do you want to do ?New mailCopy

Course content-related study coaching

Students are offered a floor which enables them to evaluate their research results and the progress of their master research on a regular basis. The professors and language teachers guide the students in integrating scientific material into a personal project, and on how to orally present their research results. Information is also announced via Ufora.

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

Professional practice, Oral assessment, Participation, Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Middle East Studies:
The evaluation consists of:
1 Cluster 1 (1000): recension (60) + presentation about recension (30) + active presence in seminars during first semester (10)
2 Cluster 2 (100): position paper (70) + presentation about position paper in Englsih (30)
3 Cluster 3 (100): synopsis of position paper in Arabic (60) + presentation about position paper in Arabic (30) + active presence in seminars in the second semester (10)
Indology:
The evaluation consists of:
1 Cluster 1 (50): preliminary draft (20) + chapter of master's dissertation (30)
2 Cluster 2 (50): bibliographic work (10) + consultation with promotor (10) + peer evaluation (10) + resentations (20)
Sinology:
The evaluation consists of:
1 Cluster 1 (50): preliminary draft and abstract (20) + chapter of master's dissertation (30)
2 Cluster 2 (50): bibliographic work (10) + consultation with promotor (10) +

peer evaluation (10) + presentations (20).

Japanology:

The evaluation consists of:

1 Cluster 1 (40): preliminary draft (10) + chapter of master's dissertation (20) + bibliographic work (10)
2 Cluster 2 (25): peer evaluation (5) + lecture report (10) + participation (10)
3 Cluster 3 (35): presentations (20) + Japanese summary (15)

Calculation of the examination mark

Middle East Studies:

70% written work (recension, position paper, synopsis) - 10% active presence in seminars - 20% oral presentations,

Indology:

20% preliminary draft, 30 % chapter of master's dissertation, 10 % bibliographical work, A0 % consulation with promotor, 10 % peer evaluation, 20 % presentations

Sinology:

20% preliminary draft and abstract, 30 % chapter of master's dissertation, 10 % bibliographic work, 10 % consultation with promotor, 10 % peer evaluation, 20 % presentations

Japanology:

10 % preliminary draft, 20 % chapter of master's dissertation, 10 % bibliographic work, 5 % peer evaluation, 10 % lecture report, 10 % participation, 20 % presentations, 15 % Japanese summary

For all groups:

When the student obtains less than 10/20 for at least one of the components, they can no longer pass the course unit as a whole. If the total score does turn out to be a mark of ten or more out of twenty, this is reduced to the highest fail mark (9/20).

Students who eschew one or more parts of the assessment can no longer obtain a pass mark for the course unit. Should the final mark be higher than 9/20, it will be reduced to the highest non-passable mark (i.e. 9/20).

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

1 Student attendance during educational activities is required;
2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year;
3 Feedback can be given during an appointment during and after office hours

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy