GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Methods and Research 1 (A006637)

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

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)	Dutch, English	Gent
B (semester 1)	Dutch, English	Gent
C (semester 1)	Dutch, English	Gent
D (semester 1)	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
De Clercq, Eva	LW21	co-lecturer
Kreil, Aymon	LW21	co-lecturer
Markiewicz, Christopher	LW21	co-lecturer
Niehaus, Andreas	LW21	co-lecturer
Uhl, Christian	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	D
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (China Track))	5	A, B, C
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (UGent Track))	5	A, B, C
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A, B, C
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	5	A, B, C

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Methodology, research practice, Middle East, South Asia, East Asia, Japanology, Sinology, Indology, research methods, research tools

Position of the course

This comprehensive course aims to help the student acquire insight in the basics of scholarly/scientific research. There is special emphasis on scholarly methods and trends in the fields of Middle East studies, South Asian studies, and East Asian studies.

Contents

This course provides a general overview of the main features of scientific research and writing. The student is introduced to some of the main research methodologies for the Middle East & North African / South Asian / East Asian cultural area (historical research, philosophical research, discourse analysis, anthropology), and is introduced to the basic tools for research in the field (journals, the main reference works, databases, ...), with research techniques (text study, ...) and with trends in research (theory, post-colonial criticism, ...). The course provides students with knowledge of the most important milestones in the history of scientific research on the Middle East & North African / South Asian / East Asian

cultural area. In addition to the acquisition of theoretical knowledge, students also learn to apply these methodological principles immediately in the form of targeted exercises. The course shows students how they can independently conduct source research on the cultural area the Middle East & North Africa / South Asia / East Asia. Students also get to know the different phases of writing a scientific publication and learn to apply the international standards for academic publications in terms of layout and style.
The student is made aware of the possibilities and limitations of the use of Artificial Intelligence.

Initial competences

* Having a basic knowledge of the history of the Middle East & North Africa / South Asia / East Asia, including contacts between the countries of the Middle East and North Africa / South Asia (India) / East Asia (China, Korea, Japan), as well as of the contacts between Europe and the countries of the Middle East and North Africa / South Asia / East Asia is required;
* Having successfully completed the course Introduction to Arabic Language Acquisition: Modern Standard Arabic and Egyptian Colloquial II (students of Arabic and Islamic studies)
* Having successfully completed the courses Sanskrit II and Hindi II (students Indology);
* Having successfully completed the courses Classical Chinese II and Modern Chinese II (students Sinology);
* Having successfully completed the courses Bungo II and Modern Japanese II (students Japanology);
* Passive knowledge of French and active knowledge of English.

Final competences

1 1. To have a thorough knowledge of the relevant scholarly literature and resources for scholarly research in the field of Middle East and North African studies / South Asian (India) studies, and East Asian (China/Japan) studies;
2 2. To have a thorough knowledge of scientific research tools (including databases and digital tools) in the field of cultural studies of Middle East and North African studies / South Asian (India) studies, and East Asian (China/Japan) studies;
3 3. To be able to use dictionaries, bibliographies, and databases;
4 4. To become aware of the relevant context when researching a subject;
5 5. To have insight in the scholarly/scientific practices pertaining to the study of the Middle Eastern and North African culture / South Asian (India) culture / East Asian (China, Japan) culture;
6 6. To know the criteria of scientific publishing;
7 7. To be able to apply specific methods in order to approach basic research questions;
8 8. To be able to find, evaluate and use scholarly sources in the field;
9 9. To know and have insight in the basics and development of research into Middle Eastern languages and cultures / Indian languages and cultures / East Asian (China, Japan) languages and cultures, and to reflect on the different viewpoints related to the field;
10 10. To know the different phases of writing a scholarly paper;
11 11. To be able to reflect on different viewpoints regarding the field;
12 12. To be aware of the requirements (stylesheets, etc.) of academic publications;
13 13. To be able to write a paper in an academic style and format;
14 14. To be aware of the conept 'scientific integrity'.
15 15. To be aware of the possibilities and limitations of the use of Artificial Intelligence.

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

Seminars
Independent work: peer evaluation, assignment

No recordings are provided.

Study material

Type: Handouts

Name: handouts
Indicative price: € 20
Optional: no
Language : Other
Number of Pages : 40
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

References

General:
* Pollefliet, Leen. Schrijven: van verslag tot eindwerk: do's & don'ts. Gent: Academia Press, 2009.
* The Chicago Manual of Style, 16th. Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago, 2000.

India:
* Bechert, H. et al. Einführung in die Indologie. Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschat, 1993.
* Said, Eward W. Orientalism. Western Conceptions of the Orient. (Nederlands: Orientalisten, 2005). New York: Pantheon Books, 1978.

China:
* Wilkinson, Endymion. Chinese History. A Manual. Harvard-Yenching Institute Monograph Series 84. Cambridge MA and London: Harvard University Press, 2013.

Japan:
* Kottmann, Nora en Cornelia Reigher (eds.). Studying Japan. Handbook of Research Designs, Fieldwork and Methods. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2020.

Course content-related study coaching

The exercises and discussion in class provide a constant feedback, also through Ufora.
Individual feedback can be given during office hours after appointment via email.
The course requires participation and permanent feedback will be given during the classes.
The lecturers are available for questions and information at specific hours.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment moment:
Periodical: written exam (80%)

Non-periodical: active participation and assignment (20%)
Assessment form:
The written exam consists of more general questions, in addition to a number of more detailed questions. The non-periodical assessment consists of active participation and assignment.

Calculation of the examination mark

80% periodical, 20% non-periodical.
The written exam accounts for 80% of the final score, the assignment accounts for 20% of the final score. Students have to pass both parts of the exam.
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. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.
- 2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year.
- 3. Alternative time for feedback is possible

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy