GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Global China (A006647)

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) English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Dessein, Bart LW21 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (China Track))	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (UGent Track))	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	A
Exchange Programme History	5	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in History	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in History	5	A
Elective Set Culture and Society	5	A
Elective Set History	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

China, modernity, nation building, nationalism, Marxism-Leninism, communism

Position of the course

This introductory course addresses the historical events that have, starting from the middle of the 19th century, determined the creation of the modern Chinese nation state and the contemporary de facto existence of two Chinese political entities (the People's Republic of China on the mainland, and the Republic of China on the island Taiwan and some islands in the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea). This course focuses on the peculiarities of these two political entities and their historical position in the global context. This course is the logical supplement to the course 'History of China' that focuses on premodern China.

Contents

In this course, the way China has, starting from the middle of the 19th century, become part of the global world as a result of the European expansion into Asia, and how China has redefined itself in this global world. More specifically, the impact Western concepts such as nationalism, socialism, Marxism-Leninism, and communism have had on the Chinese state building since the end of the empire (19th century and early twentieth century), and during the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China are addressed. Herefrom, the historical trajectory that China has gone through up and until the present day are discussed. For the contemporary global world, the growing impact China has in the geopolitical, geo-economic, and geostrategic domains are discussed. Also the global importance of the contemporary de facto existence of two Chinese political entities – the People's Republic of China on the mainland, and the Republic of China on the island Taiwan and some islands in the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea – is discussed.

Initial competences

Having successfully passed the course 'History of China', or having acquired these competences through other means.

Final competences

1 1. To know and to be able to situate the historical events that have determined the inclusion of China in the 19th-century global order;
2 2. To be able to situate the historical events that have determined the creation of the Chinese nation state;
3 3. To be able to situate the general developments in China's intellectual history since the middle of the 19th century;
4 4. To be able to explain the formation of a Chinese variant of Marxism-Leninism;
5 5. To be able to explain the development of the Chinese nation state through World War I, the Chinese civil war (1927-1949) interrupted through World War II); World War II, and the Chinese civil war (1945-1949)
6 6. To be able to situate the most important domestic political events since 1949;
7 7. To be able to explain the contemporary Chinese initiatives on the world scene;
8 8. To be able to understand the development of the contemporary de facto existing two Chinese political entities;
9 9. To be able to contextualize the international impact of the de facto existence of two Chinese political entities

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

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

The history of 'Global China' is presented by the lecturer, with the help of visual and audiovisual technology

No recordings are provided.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Syllabus
Indicative price: € 10
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes
Additional information: Costs: printing syllabus

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint presentations
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes

References

In the syllabus, references to the relevant academic literature are given

Course content-related study coaching

For individual questions, students can always contact the lecturers

Assessment moments

end-of-term 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

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Periodical: written examination
A written examination evaluates to which extent the student is capable of giving a general framework of the history of the creation of the Chinese nation state, is able to situate historical events in this framework, and is able to explain the international rposition of China

Calculation of the examination mark

The written examination counts for 100 % of the final result

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible rescheduling of the examination to the date of the catch-up exam within the same examination period
2. Feedback can be given during an appointment during or after office hours