GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

EU-East Asia Relations (KO01077)

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 1)	English	Gent	lecture
			independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Dessein, Bart	LW21	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	**crdts**	**offering**
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences(main subject Political Science)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Middle East Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in Global Studies	5	A
Master of Science in EU-Studies	5	A
Exchange Programme Global Studies and World Societies	5	A
Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences	5	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

European Union, East Asia, Northeast Asia, Central Asia, geopolitics, geostrategy, geo-economics, culturalism, nationalism, international relations

Position of the course

This specialised course is an optional component of two master programmes: the Master in EU studies (main subject Specific EU issues), and the Master in Oriental Languages and Cultures.
The course aims at providing the students a broad and in-depth understanding of the relations between the EU on the one hand, and East Asia, Northeast Asia, and Central Asia on the other hand. It benefits from the extensive expertise at the Centre for EU Studies and the Department of Languages and Cultures at Ghent University. It will also be linked to regular academic events organized by both research groups. Through interaction with the lecturers, students learn to participate in a debate on an academically high level in English.
Relation to educational competences of the Master in EU studies: M.1.1, M.1.2., M. 1.4., M.2.1., M.3.1., M.3.2., M.5.1. Relation to educational competences of the Master in Oriental Languages and Cultures: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3

Contents

This specialized course gives an overview and analysis of 1. East and Northeast Asia (historical, political and economic context of China, Japan, North Korea and South Korea, the Central Asian republics), 2. The EU's external policy (historical evolution and institutional context), and 3. Regionalism in Europe and in East, Northeast and Central Asia. This framework serves as a basis for the elaboration

on the relations between the EU and the rapidly changing East, Northeast, and Central Asian region. Courses on the current EU-East Asia relations will address topics such as geopolitics, geostrategy, geo-economics, cultural traditions and values. Closer attention will be paid at a number of specific issues in the EU's bilateral relations with Asian countries. For example, this could be the 'Belt and Road Initiative', the EU's 'Global Gateway' policy, or the position of the EU in the cross-strait issue.

Initial competences

- All students of the Master in EU studies (Main Subject Specific EU Studies) and of the Master in Oriental Languages and Cultures are allowed to take this specialist course.
- No specific prior knowledge is required. The course builds further on a general level of academic thinking and working; generally acquired knowledge on the EU's external policy and a background knowledge on East Asia, Northeast Asia, and Central Asia is recommended.

Final competences

1 1. To gain insight into the complexity of political, economical and security dynamics in the East, Northeast, and Central Asian region.
2 2. To gain insight into the complexity of the EU's foreign policy towards these regions

3 3. To have the knowledge to critically interpret the current role of the EU in East and Northeast Asia - namely China, Japan, ROK and DPRK - and the Central Asian republics, against the background of a changing global order.

4 4. To be able to elaborate a well-argued opinion with respect to the area and contextualize specific bilateral issues within these relations

5 5. To gain a profound knowledge of the various areas of EU's external actions in East and Northeast Asia

6 6. To be able to independently and critically follow up current political events in the area

7 7. To be able to present a critical analysis of recent developments in written form (English) in an academic paper

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

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

ex cathedra, guest lectures, discussion sessions

complies with the following learning outcomes of the Master EU Studies : M.1.1; M. 1.4; M.1.5; M.1.7; M.3.1; M.3.2; M.4.2; M.4.3

Who has access to recordings?

Basic: Lecture recordings are available to students who have the "lecture recording" permission set to "cannot be denied."

How are recordings made available?

Catch-up recordings: Lecture recordings are available shortly after the class ends, through the following weekend.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: powerpoint presentations
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no

Type: Reader

Name: Reader EU-East Asia Relations
Indicative price: € 10
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Thomas Christiansen, Emil Kirchner and Philomena B. Murray (ed) (2013), The Palgrave Handbook on EU-Asia Relations, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support through Ufora
By personal appointment (through e-mail)
During office hours

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

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

Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Non-periodic assessment (20 %)
peer assessment of draft paper of fellow student

Periodic assessment (80 %)
- Paper (5000 words, deadline is communicated through Ufora)
Handing in the paper during the second examination period is possible

Calculation of the examination mark

80 % assessment of paper
20 % peer assessmentart