

Society and Current Affairs: China (A003042)

Course size	<i>(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)</i>		
Credits 5.0	Study time 150 h	Contact hrs	60.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024

B (semester 1)	English	Gent	lecture
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Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Dessein, Bart	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

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Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)	5	B
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (China Track))	5	B
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (UGent Track))	5	B
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject India)	5	B
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Japan)	5	B
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	5	B
Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology	5	B
Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	B
Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures	5	B
Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences	5	B
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy	5	B
Bachelor of Science in Political Science	5	B
Micro-credential China and its Background	5	B
Micro-credential China in Context	5	B
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	5	B

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Contemporary China, homeland politics, international relations, army, nationalism, demography, economy, justice, religion, education, society.

Position of the course

This advanced course gives students knowledge about China's homeland political situation, its international position (including military and geopolitical questions), economic structures, social system, and juridical situation (including constitutional freedoms). These topics are discussed within a larger historical setting.

Contents

Starting from different case studies, contemporary Chinese society is analysed. This analysis is embedded in a historical setting: contemporary China is explained from its economic, political, philosophical, and social history.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the course 'History of China' (BA1) and 'Introduction to World History' (BA1) or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to explain the political structures of China from their historical background;
- 2 To understand and be able to argue the international political and military position of China;
- 3 To be able to explain the economic structures of China from their historical background;
- 4 To be able to explain the social relationships from their historical and philosophical background;
- 5 To be able to explain the demographic, ethnic, and social situation of China from their historical backgrounds;
- 6 To know and be able to explain the Chinese juridical system and the Chinese constitutional freedoms from their historical backgrounds;
- 7 To have an insight into the religious life of China from its historical background.

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

In formal lectures, different subjects are discussed using case studies.

Learning materials and price

- syllabus (through Ufora)
- ppt (through Ufora)

References

- A. Heirman, B. Dessein and D. Delporte. *China. Een maatschappelijke en filosofische geschiedenis van de vroegste tijden tot het begin van de twintigste eeuw*. Gent: Academia Press, 2001. (price: 19,70 EUR)
- E. R. Wolf, *Peasants*, Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall, 1966.

Course content-related study coaching

The classes are partly organized in the form of discussions with the students. This makes immediate feedback possible.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term assessment

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

Oral examination

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

Oral examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Periodical: exam (100%)

- Questions on knowledge of and insight into the subject matter.
- The student has to analyse an economic/political/social problem not seen in class, using the subject matter.

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical: exam (100%)

One part (75 %) of the marks concerns knowledge and understanding of the subjects discussed in the classes, another part (25 %) of the marks concerns the analytical abilities in solving an issue that was not discussed in the classes, similar to the ones discussed in the classes.

Facilities for Working Students

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 by email or during an appointment during office hours
- For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy