

Classical Chinese IV (A003210)

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 2023-2024

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

excursion

seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

De Rauw, Tom

LW21

staff member

Heirman, Ann

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject China \(China Track\)\)](#)

crdts

5

offering

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject China \(UGent Track\)\)](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Classical Chinese, Chinese language

Position of the course

In this intermediate course, attention goes to the place of classical sources in the historical and contemporary Chinese context. In this course, students learn to use secondary literature relevant when studying Classical Chinese source material. Students are taught to translate (under supervision) major Chinese texts of the classical period into Dutch. The course shows them how to do research on the role of Classical Chinese texts within the historical, religious-philosophical, social and cultural evolutions, and how to discuss the results of this research.

Contents

By means of excerpts from the main philosophical (Confucian, Taoist, Mohist, Legalist) and historical texts of Classical China, basic structures of Classical Chinese are being analysed and translated. The place and impact of these texts in historical and contemporary China is focused upon. Texts will thus be placed in a historical, religious-philosophical, social and cultural context, complementary to other courses taught in BA 1 and 2. In the framework of some tasks (including an excursion), knowledge and competences are applied.

Initial competences

- To have successfully completed the course Classical Chinese III or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.
- To have successfully completed the course Modern Chinese III or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.
- To have a passive knowledge of English.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to use secondary literature while studying Classical Chinese source material.
- 2 To be able to translate basic Classical Chinese texts into Dutch (under supervision).
- 3 To be able to study the role of Classical Chinese texts within the historical, religious-philosophical, social and cultural evolution.

(Approved)

4 To be able to study the role of Classical Chinese texts in contemporary China.

5 To be able to discuss research findings.

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, Excursion

Extra information on the teaching methods

Guided exercises: in the guided exercises attention goes to the place of Classical Chinese texts in the relevant historical, contemporary, religious-philosophical, social and cultural context, taking into account scientific literature. Attention also goes to reading skills, translation, and analysis of advanced structures.

With a visit to a museum (Paris, London ...), a critical approach to the historical context of traditional China is focused upon. A questionnaire serves as a guide to the students. If needed, the visit will be virtual.

Learning materials and price

- A grammar: Pulleyblank, E.G. *Outline of Classical Chinese Grammar*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1995 (ca. 32.00 €)
- Sterckx, Roel. *Chinese Thought: From Confucius to Cook Ding*. London: Pelican Books, 2019 (ca. 15.00 €) or (in Dutch) *Chinees denken. Over geschiedenis, filosofie en samenleving*. Amsterdam: Uitgeverij Nieuwezijds (ca. 30.00 €)
- A syllabus for theory and written exercises (ca. 20.00 €).
- Ufora documents (such as powerpoint presentations)
- An excursion: ca. 100 to 150 €

References

Kroll, Paul W. *A Student's Dictionary of Classical and Medieval Chinese*. Leiden: Brill, 2014.

Wagner, Donald. *A Mencius Reader*. Copenhagen: NIAS Press, 2004

Course content-related study coaching

The class exercises offer the students a continuous feedback. Individual feedback is also provided.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Written 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

Assessment moment

1) Periodical: oral examination (50%, including portfolio)

2) non-periodical evaluation: continuous assessment (two tests) (50%)

Students have to pass both parts (if a student does not pass the non-periodical evaluation, a second chance is offered by means of a compensatory activity at the second exam period).

Assessment form

Periodical: there is an oral examination, with a written preparation. This examination evaluates how the student reads Classical Chinese texts and places these texts in a historical, contemporary, religious-philosophical, social and cultural context, and how he/she can present texts (primarily *Mengzi*) individually studied.

Also the excursion (active participation and portfolio with questions) will be

evaluated at the oral examination.

Continuous assessment:

- two tests at regular intervals examine the knowledge of the Chinese characters and of the basic grammar of Classical Chinese. In addition, the tests ask for translations of short Chinese texts.

Calculation of the examination mark

The periodical assessment (= oral examination) counts for 50%; the non-periodical assessment (two tests) counts for 50%.

Students have to pass both parts (= periodical and non-periodical assessments).

Results of 10 out of 20 and above on the continuous assessment (= the total of the two tests) can be transferred to the second examination session.

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

Facilities:

- 1 Student attendance during educational activities is strongly recommended in order to be able to successfully follow the course.
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the examination period.
- 3 Feedback can be given online, or at an appointment during and after office hours.