

Classical Chinese VI (A003212)

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 2)

Dutch, English

Gent

seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

De Rauw, Tom

LW21

staff member

Anderl, Christoph

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

crdts

offering

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Classical languages, Chinese language

Position of the course

This advanced course teaches students how to translate classical texts and use the sources relevant for the study of the historical, religious-philosophical, social and cultural evolutions in China. The course teaches students how to translate medieval and pre-modern texts (up to the 19th century) of different genres, and how to do research on the relationship between classical, medieval, pre-modern and modern China, also based on the methodologies of Chinese historical linguistics.

Contents

Classical Chinese texts are situated within the larger historical, religious-philosophical, social and cultural development of China. The focus is on medieval and pre-modern texts. Each student has to prepare a short text fragment that links in with the texts treated during the seminars and has to present it at the examination.

Initial competences

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

Final competences

- 1 To be able to do research on the basis of medieval and pre-modern sources of China.
- 2 To be able to correctly relate sources to a linguistic, historical, religious-philosophical, social and cultural framework.
- 3 To be able to translate medieval and pre-modern texts.
- 4 To be able to use the sources relevant for the study of the historical, religious-philosophical, social and cultural evolutions in East Asia (mainly China).
- 5 To be able to individually conduct research based on relevant sources.
- 6 To be able to present an individually prepared (and briefly annotated) translation of a classical text.
- 7 To be able to do research on the relationship between classical, medieval, pre-

modern and modern China.

8 To be able to discuss research results.

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

Seminars: interactive discussions on different topics, with the use of texts. The discussions need to be prepared.

Study material

None

References

Course content-related study coaching

Discussions in class provide a constant feedback. The individual translation of a selected classical text can be discussed with the teachers throughout the semester.

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

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment moment

Periodical oral examination (75%)

Non-periodical (25%)

Assessment form

There is an oral examination (periodical).

The examination focuses on the capacity of the student to translate a text into English and to place the given source within its historical, religious-philosophical, social and cultural framework. In addition, individually prepared work (that has not been discussed at class level) needs to be presented.

Non-periodical: Various assignments during the term, such as individual and group presentations, linguistic analysis of example sentences, the use of dictionaries and databases, discussion of papers, etc.

Calculation of the examination mark

The periodical assessment (= oral examination) counts for 75%; the non-periodical assessment (= various tasks and assignments) counts for 25%.

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

Results of 10 out of 20 and above on the periodical assessment or on the non-periodical assessment 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

1. Student attendance during educational activities is required.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year.
3. Alternative time for feedback.

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