

## Classical Chinese: Language, Text and Context (A005124)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 6.0**

**Study time 180 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024**

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

group work

**Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024**

Heirman, Ann

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024**

**crdts**

**offering**

Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures)

6

A

Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China)

6

A

Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures

6

A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

Classical Chinese, tradition, religion and philosophy of China

**Position of the course**

The course discusses so-called 'traditional China', on the basis of primary and secondary sources. Each academic year some topics are particularly focused upon, with relevant research questions, and relying (also) on knowledge previously addressed in other courses. Research results are discussed in class. In addition, students analyze one topic of their choice in small teams and present their results in class.

**Contents**

The course focuses on pre-modern texts, discussed in a historical, religious-philosophical, social and cultural framework. Within this framework, a few topics are focused upon. The topics are analyzed on the basis of research questions and with the help of primary and secondary sources. Attention also goes to the impact of these topics on contemporary society, and to the influence on or from regions outside of China. Research results are discussed in class. Related to the central themes, students choose a topic of their own and analyze it in small teams. The results are presented in class, and are part of the (individual) oral examination.

**Initial competences**

The course 'Classical Chinese: Language, text and context' requires a thorough knowledge of 'Classical Chinese' (BA 3 level), and a good knowledge of the history of China and of East Asian religions/philosophy (particularly Confucianism and Buddhism).

**Final competences**

- 1 To be able to translate, analyze and interpret Classical/Pre-modern Chinese texts.
- 2 To be able to translate, analyze and interpret Chinese Buddhist texts.
- 3 To be able to conduct research on the basis of primary sources.
- 4 To be able to relate primary sources to a historical, religious-philosophical, social and cultural framework.
- 5 To be able to discuss the impact of classical themes on contemporary China.
- 6 To be able to relate (traditional) China to other regions.
- 7 To be able to use academic secondary literature.
- 8 To be able to use relevant databases.
- 9 To be able to report on research results in a critical and academic way.

**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**

Group work, Seminar

### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

Classical/Pre-modern and Buddhist texts are interactively related to previously acquired knowledge, and are discussed on the basis of scholarly studies. Students are intensively involved, and receive guidance for the interpretation of primary sources. Some of the lessons are prepared by the students (in small groups) and presented to the class (flipped classroom). In small groups a paper is prepared and presented in class as well as at the oral examination.

### **Learning materials and price**

Ufora documents, and powerpoint presentations

### **References**

Dictionaries: Kroll, Paul W., *A Student's Dictionary of Classical and Medieval Chinese*, Leiden, Brill, 2014 (paperback; ca. 49.00 €); W. Soothill and L. Hodous, *A Dictionary of Chinese Buddhist Terms*, Delhi, Motilal Banarsidass (ca. 40.00 € or free online)

### **Course content-related study coaching**

Discussions in class provide a constant feedback. The paper that needs to be presented can be discussed with the lecturer in the course of 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**

Assignment

### **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**

During the semester a paper (with powerpoint presentation) is presented in class. The oral examination focuses on the knowledge and contextualization of a text selection studied in class, and on the presentation made in team.

### **Calculation of the examination mark**

Presentation (25%)

Oral examination (75%)

The final score on the continuous assessment (= the presentation) can be transferred to the second examination session.

In case one does not participate in one or more parts of the evaluation, one cannot pass the examination. If the average final score totals 10/20 or more, the score will be reduced to the highest nonpass score (= 9).

### **Facilities for Working Students**

#### **Facilities:**

- 1 Student attendance during educational activities is required
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same examination period.
- 3 Feedback can be given during an appointment during and after office hours, also online.