## Research Seminar Oriental Languages and Cultures (A005143)

| Course size | (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme) |
|---|---|
| **Credits** 13.0 | **Study time** 390 h |

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026**

| A (Year) | English | Gent | independent work |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | seminar |
| | | | peer teaching |
| B (Year) | English | Gent | peer teaching |
| | | | seminar |
| | | | independent work |
| C (Year) | English | Gent | independent work |
| | | | peer teaching |
| | | | seminar |
| D (Year) | English | Gent | peer teaching |
| | | | independent work |
| | | | seminar |

**Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026**

| Torck, Mathieu | LW21 | staff member |
|---|---|---|
| Anderl, Christoph | LW21 | lecturer-in-charge |
| De Clercq, Eva | LW21 | co-lecturer |
| De Simone, Daniela | LW21 | co-lecturer |
| Dessein, Bart | LW21 | co-lecturer |
| Heirman, Ann | LW21 | co-lecturer |
| Kreil, Aymon | LW21 | co-lecturer |
| Niehaus, Andreas | LW21 | co-lecturer |
| Stortini, Paride | LW21 | co-lecturer |
| Vekemans, Tine | LW21 | co-lecturer |

**Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026**

| | crdts | offering |
|---|---|---|
| Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China) | 13 | A, B, C, D |
| Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India) | 13 | A, B, C, D |
| Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan) | 13 | A, B, C, D |
| Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Middle East Studies) | 13 | A, B, C, D |
| Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures | 13 | A, C, D |

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

Research, languages and cultures, Indology, Sinology, Japanology, Middle Eastern Studies

**Position of the course**

This course forms part of the research module in the master programme of Oriental Languages and Cultures. It provides a framework within which students further develop and refine the research skills that were acquired through the bachelor's

programme. In every main area (Indology, Sinology, Japanology, Middle Eastern Studies) students work on research topics.

## Contents

In this course students work on research topic which is chosen per main subject (indology, sinology, japanology, Middle Eastern Studies). Students need to approach these topics by means of (mainly) individual assignments in which research skills and language competences are important assets. Oral and written techniques of presentation and reporting (in English or in the main Oriental language) are further developed. The language studied by the master student and in which (s)he has acquired advanced skills is used productively and receptively. Students receive guidance from professors, assistants and/or language teachers.

## Initial competences

### Main subject India
- To have a good knowledge of the history of South Asia;
- To have knowledge of Indian language;
- To be conversant with the tools to carry out scholarly indological research;
- To have successfully completed 'Bachelorproef';
- To have passive and active knowledge of English.

### Main subject China
- To have a good knowledge of the history of China and East Asia;
- To have a profound knowledge of Modern Chinese;
- To have a profound knowledge of Classical Chinese;
- To be conversant with the instruments used in scholarly sinological research;
- To have successfully completed 'Research Practice 2';
- To have passive and active knowledge English, and preferably also of French.

### Main subject Japan
- To have a good knowledge of the history of East Asia;
- To have a profound knowledge of Modern Japanese;
- To have a profound knowledge of Classical Japanese;
- To be conversant with the instruments used in scholarly japanological research;
- To have successfully completed 'Research Practice 2';
- To have passive knowledge of French and English.

### Main subject Middle Eastern Studies
- To have a good knowledge of the political, social and cultural history of the Middle East;
- To have intermediary knowledge of Media Arabic;
- To have intermediary knowledge of Egyptian Arabic;
- To have a good knowledge of the Arabo-Islamic heritage;
- To have a good knowledge of the main scholarly methods, theories and paradigms of Middle Eastern studies;
- To have successfully completed 'Research Practice 2';
- To have receptive and productive knowledge of French and English.

## Final competences

1 To be able to use a primary source for scientific research;
2 To be able to use secondary sources in support of newly opened primary research material;
3 To be able to use the electronic databases of the university library (among which E-journals);
4 To be able to use databases for scientific research;
5 To be able to connect new research results to existing scientific theories;
6 To be able to formulate a theoretical exposé in written form;
7 To be able to formulate a theoretical exposé orally;
8 To be able to formulate new hypotheses from the own research;
9 To be able to formulate new research questions;
10 To be able to formulate and write a research project;
11 To be able to develop planning and timing of a scientific research.

## 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, Independent work, Peer teaching

**Extra information on the teaching methods**

The focus lies on personal work under the guidance of the master thesis supervisor.
The personal work is refined and presented via microteaching.

**Study material**

Type: Slides

Name: PPT presentations
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Handouts

Name: Handouts
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

**References**

Depending on the research topic

**Course content-related study coaching**

Students are offered an arena which enables them to evaluate their research results and the progress of their master research on a regular basis. The professors, assistants and (when relevant) language teachers guide the students in integrating scientific material into a personal project, and on how to orally present their research results. Information is also announced via Ufora.

**Assessment moments**

continuous assessment

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


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


**Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Oral assessment, Participation, Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

**Extra information on the examination methods**

**Main subject India**
The evaluation consists of the following components:
1. A preliminary draft pertaining to a PhD proposal.
2. A literature review concerning a PhD proposal.
3. Two essays (1. about a PhD proposal; and 2. about an academic conference/workshop/intensive seminar).
4. Doctoral research proposal.
5. Presentations: about the doctoral research proposal and the attended conference/workshop/intensive seminar.
6. Peer evaluation about the doctoral research proposal and an oral report about the conference/workshop/intensive seminar that was attended by the student.


**Main subject China**
The evaluation consists of the following components:
1. A preliminary draft pertaining to a PhD proposal.
2. A literature review concerning a PhD proposal.
3. Two essays (1. about a PhD proposal; and 2. about an academic conference/workshop/intensive seminar).

4. Doctoral research proposal.

5. Presentations: about the doctoral research proposal and the attended conference/workshop/intensive seminar.

6. Peer evaluation about the doctoral research proposal and an oral report about the conference/workshop/intensive seminar that was attended by the student.

### Main subject Japan

The evaluation consists of the following components:

1. A preliminary draft pertaining to the research topic in question.

2. A literature review concerning the research topic in question.

3. Two essays (one about the research topic and one about the intensive seminar) and a report about an academic conference.

4. Doctoral research proposal.

5. Presentations: about the doctoral research proposal and the attended conference.

6. Participation during classes.

### Main subject Middle Eastern Studies

The evaluation consists of the following components:

1. Een extensive recension pertaining to the topic of the research seminar (2,000 words) (Dutch/English).

2. A joint review article about the topic of the research seminar (5,000 words) (Dutch/English).

3. Two reflexive essays about the research seminar (2,500 words x2) ssays ivm. het onderzoeksseminarie. (2 500 woorden x 2).

4. A doctoral research proposal about the topic of the master dissertation (FWO template).

5. A critical report of an academic meeting or conference to the student's choice (1,000 words).

6. At least two oral presentation (Dutch/English) about an academic meeting or conference (see 5.).

7. Active participation during seminars.

## Calculation of the examination mark

### Main subject India

Cluster 1 (50%): essays (30%) + doctoral research proposal (20%)

Cluster 2 (20%): preliminary draft (10%) + bibliographical review (10%)

Cluster 3 (30%): oral presentations (20%) + peer evaluation (10%)

### Main subject China

Cluster 1 (50%): essays (30%) + doctoral research proposal (20%)

Cluster 2 (20%): preliminary draft (10%) + bibliographical review (10%)

Cluster 3 (30%): oral presentations (20%) + peer evaluation (10%)

### Main subject Japan

Cluster 1 (50%): Essay research topic (10%) + doctoral research proposal (40%)

Cluster 2 (30%): preliminary draft  (10%) + bibliographical review (10%) + conference report (10%)

Cluster 3 (20%): oral presentations (10%) + participation (10%)

### Main subject Middle Eastern Studies

Cluster 1: Review article (60%); recension (40%)

Cluster 2: doctoral project proposal (100%)

Cluster 3: essays (60%); oral presentations (30%); participation (10%)

### General

Students have to pass **all parts (clusters)** of the course.

When the student obtains less than 10/20 for at least one of the components, they can no longer pass the course unit as a whole. If the total score does turn out to be a mark of ten or more out of twenty, this is reduced to the highest fail mark (9/20). Students who eschew one or more parts of the assessment can no longer obtain a pass mark for the course unit. Should the final mark be higher than 7/20, it will be reduced to the highest non-passable mark (i.e. 7/20).

All partial results can be transferred from examination session one to examination session two.

## 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 academic year;

3  Feedback can be given during an appointment during and after office hours

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy