

Oriental Literature: Japan (A005172)

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	Gent	independent work lecture seminar
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Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Pinte, Klaus	LW21	staff member
Van Haute, Luc	LW21	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (China Track))	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (UGent Track))	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	5	A
Micro-credential Literatures of Africa and Asia	5	A
Elective Set Languages of Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe	5	A
Elective Set Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Literature, Japan

Position of the course

This advanced course helps students to understand the difference between 'literature' in Western and in Japanese context. The course introduces them to the main Japanese authors of the different literary genres and their most important works. The course helps students understand the evolution of literary style and themes of the main Japanese literatures. The course explains evolutions in style and theme from a socio-cultural background and within a socio-literary context. The course also addresses the phenomenon of transcontinental literary influence.

Contents

Using extracts from the main literary works of Japan, the students are taught how the concept 'literature' in Japanese context differs from the one in European context.

Using extracts from the main literary works of Japan, an overview is given of the evolution in style and theme within the main literary genres of Japan. Also transcontinental influence of style and theme are illustrated. The students have to independently read some literary works of the Japanese tradition, and have to be able to interpret these works in the light of the subject matter taught.

Initial competences

- To have successfully completed the course 'Introduction to Modern European Literature' or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.
- To have sufficient knowledge of English to read literary and academic texts.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to do a critical reading of the Japanese literature.

- 2 To understand the difference between 'literature' in Western and in Japanese context.
- 3 To have knowledge of the main Japanese authors of the different literary genres and their most important works.
- 4 To be able to conduct independent literary studies
- 5 To understand the evolution of literary style and themes of the main Japanese literatures.
- 6 To be able to explain evolutions in style and theme from a socio-cultural background and within a socio-literary context.
- 7 To have an insight into the phenomenon of transcontinental literary influence.

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

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- By means of formal lectures, the most important theoretical aspects of the course are addressed.
- The extracts from literary works read by the students (reading list) are discussed in the classes,
- Independent work: students have to read a reading list independently.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: A History of Japanese Literature from the Man'yoshu to Modern • Times. Richmond: Curzon Press, 1997.

Indicative price: € 30

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Shuichi Kato

ISBN : 1-873410-48-4

Number of Pages : 400

Oldest Usable Edition : 1997

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Type: Handbook

Name: Liefdesdood in Kamara en andere Japanse verhalen

Indicative price: € 25

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Author : Luk Van Haute e.a.

ISBN : 978-9-02544-313-9

Number of Pages : 592

Oldest Usable Edition : 2014

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

References

reading list

Course content-related study coaching

Seminars are conducted by a lecturer.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written examination with open questions and closed questions (on knowledge).

Open questions on the reading list.

The non-periodical evaluation will be a paper of five pages related to the literature of Japan.

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical exam counts for 80% and the paper for 20%. The student has to pass both the periodical exam and the paper. When the student does not participate in one or more of the components, or obtains less than 10/20 for at least one of the components, they can no longer obtain a pass mark for 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 (i.e. 9/20);

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.

2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year

3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during office hours

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