

## 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 2023-2024**

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

lecture

independent work

**Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024**

Pinte, Klaus

LW21

staff member

Van Haute, Luc

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

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

**crdts**

**offering**

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies\)](#)

5

A

[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

[Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy](#)

5

A

[Micro-credential Literatures of Africa and Asia](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures](#)

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 East Asian context. The course introduces them to the main Chinese / 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 Chinese / 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 China / Japan, the students are taught how the concept 'literature' in East Asian context differs from the one in European context.

Using extracts from the main literary works of China/Japan, an overview is given of the evolution in style and theme within the main literary genres of China / Japan. Also transcontinental influence of style and theme are illustrated. The students have to independently read some literary works of the Chinese / 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 a basic knowledge of English and French.

### **Final competences**

- 1 To be able to do a critical reading of the Chinese / Japanese literature.
- 2 To be able to conduct independent literary studies
- 3 To understand the difference between 'literature' in Western and in East Asian context.
- 4 To have knowledge of the main Chinese / Japanese authors of the different literary genres and their most important works.
- 5 To understand the evolution of literary style and themes of the main Chinese / 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.

### **Learning materials and price**

- Handbook: Shuichi Kato, *A History of Japanese Literature from the Man'yōshū to Modern Times*. Richmond: Curzon Press, 1997. (ca. 30 EUR)
  - Two literary book, which will be chosen at the beginning of the term (ca. 30 EUR)
- estimated total cost: 60 EUR

### **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