

Bachelor's Essay (A005233)

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 2025-2026

A (Year)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

independent work

peer teaching

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Goddeeris, Anne	LW21	staff member
Pinte, Klaus	LW21	staff member
Torck, Mathieu	LW21	staff member
Dessein, Bart	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Anderl, Christoph	LW21	co-lecturer
Dayeh, Islam	LW21	co-lecturer
De Clercq, Eva	LW21	co-lecturer
De Simone, Daniela	LW21	co-lecturer
Franke, Lisa	LW21	co-lecturer
Heirman, Ann	LW21	co-lecturer
Kreil, Aymon	LW21	co-lecturer
Markiewicz, Christopher	LW03	co-lecturer
Uhl, Christian	LW21	co-lecturer
Van Steenberghe, Jo	LW21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

	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

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Research practice, bachelor paper, Arabic & Islamic studies, Indology, Sinology, Japanology

Position of the course

For 'Bachelor's Essay', the student has to write a scientific paper in which he/she further practices and develops the competences acquired in 'Method and Research: South and East Asia 1 and 2' (Indology, Sinology, Japanology) or in the courses chosen from the curriculum component 'theory, method, and research' (Arabic and Islamic studies). In this research and writing assesment, the student has to acquire scientific competences concerning a given topic that relates to the research field. He has to provide a status questionis of the research on this topic. The student learns how to use scientific literature, including literature in the target language. He/she has also to be able to contextualise this literature; He further develops skills for problem analysis, and redaction skills. The purpose is to write a scientific paper

and to give an oral presentation to an audience of academic staff, assistants and peers. The bachelor paper is the final outcome of the studies BA Oriental languages and cultures. In this paper, the student has to prove to have acquired the language and research competences of BA level.

Contents

Under guidance of academic staff/promotor, the student has to choose a topic within the research field of Oriental languages and cultures. This topic is researched, using scientific literature (including literature in the target language). He/she interpretes and contextualizes this scientific source material, using methods learnt in previous methodological courses and research courses. The student makes himself familiar with the basic research sources for his/her topic, the basic knowledge, and the interpretations of the sources. He also knows the evolution of the research concerned. The student perfects him/herself in formulating a concrete research question, and in drafting an academic bibliography. The students have to be able to both orally and in written form formulate their research results in a structured, comprehensive and accurate way.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the standard trajectory of BA 2 Oriental Languages and Cultures, or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.
Knowledge of English and French.
Be aware of the possibilities and limitations of the use of Artificial Intelligence.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to independently translate and interpret a text in an oriental language, or (traject 'Near East and Islamic World') to make a status quaestionis about a research question;
- 2 To be able to situate a text in an oriental language in its cultural and historical framework, or (traject 'Near East and Islamic world') to situate a research question in its scholarly framework;
- 3 To be able to fulfill the substantive and formal requirements of a scientific exposé;
- 4 To be able to independently do scientific research;
- 5 To be able to have an overview of the scholarly discussion concerning a well-limited field of study;
- 6 To be able to judge the scientific discussion on the field of study in a critical way.

Conditions for credit contract

This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

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

- integration seminar/guided exercises: Using the university library, students are guided in the first research activities by lecturers/assistants.
- PGO-tutorial: In the form of a project, the subject of which is discussed with the supervisor, the students have to show that they master the subject matter of the different courses of the BA program, and that they can apply this contents independently to the chosen subject.
- independent work: paper
- microteaching: At the end of the academic year, the students have to orally report on the results of their project to their supervisor, assistants and peers.
- Bachelor's Essay: This project and its oral presentation is the Bachelor's Essay of the program of Oriental Languages and Cultures.

Study material

None

References

Arabic & Islamic Studies:

R. St. Humphreys, *Islamic History. A Framework for Inquiry*. Revised Edition (Princeton: Princeton UP 1991)

Indology:

L. RENOU - J. FILLIOZAT. *L'Inde classique. Manuel d'études indiennes*, 2 vols, Paris 1947-1953. J. Gonda. *A History of Indian Literature* (10 Vols.). Wiesbaden: O. Harrassowitz, 1973-1987.

Sinology:

Endymion Wilkinson. *Chinese History. A Manual*. Harvard-Yenching Institute Monograph Series 84. Cambridge and London: Harvard University Press, 2012.

Japanology:

copies

Course content-related study coaching

The work on the bachelor paper is guided by the academic staff or the promotor (Arabic and Islam studies). The promotor is part of the research group. Assistants or academic staff of other research groups cannot function as such.

The tutor/promotor is the point of call and consultant for issues concerning the structure and development of the bachelor's essay. The student has to report the progress in the research at regular moments. This report contains the following topics: research activities, problem analysis, relevance of literature, availability of sources, value of sources, problems one wants to solve, the way one wants to solve these problems, feasibility of the research, etc.

Support through 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, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

The students have to hand in their written paper of at least 10,000 words, and to orally report on this paper to their peers and supervisor. Both the written paper and the oral presentation are evaluated on content, methodology, structure, academic profoundness, language, and technical accuracy.

Calculation of the examination mark

The written paper counts for 80 % of the total score, the oral report for 20 %. 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. The examination cannot be rescheduled
3. Alternative time for feedback is possible

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