

## Bungo I (A005334)

**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 1)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

independent work

seminar

### Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Uhl, Christian

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

### Teaching languages

Dutch

### Keywords

Classical Japanese, bungo, Japanese language

### Position of the course

The term "classical Japanese" commonly translates the Japanese word, "bungo", meaning "written language". Bungo is the written idiom, which emerged over a millenium ago and remained relatively unchanged throughout the centuries until the 20th century. Even today - in a time in which a new written standard based on the colloquial, so called "modern" Japanese (kougo) has replaced the traditional bungo standard - bungo it is still used in traditional style Japanese poetry (waka). Knowledge of bungo is a key skill to access independently historical texts and documents, most of which aren't available in translation and thus it is arguably indispensable for any serious academic engagement with Japan's cultural and historical heritage. This course lays the foundation that is necessary for an effective study of "bungo".

### Contents

By means of lectures and illustrating examples the course introduces the participants into the history and structure of the Japanese language and of the Japanese writing system. In extensive practical exercises the students learn to read and write Japanese (kana) and Chinese (kanji) characters, not only by hand, but also by means of their computers. The students also learn how to use bi-lingual character dictionaries in the form of old-school books as well as of e-tools. The students accommodate themselves with basic grammatical terminology, and with the particulars of bungo (in contrast to kougo) orthography. Attention is paid to the similarities and the difference between so-called classical (bungo), and so-called modern Japanese (kougo).

### Initial competences

To have a solid passive knowledge of English.

### Final competences

1 Having a solid grasp of the historical evolution of the Japanese script, and of the particulars

- of bungo and kougo orthography
- 2 Knowing how to write Japanese by hand as well as by means of a computer
- 3 Being able to use bi-lingual character dictionaries
- 4 Having mastered the two kana scripts and having acquired a foundational knowledge of approximately 300 Chinese characters.
- 5 Understanding the relation between modern and classical Japanese.
- 6 Having acquired a stock of basic grammatical terminology for both, "modern" and "klassical" Japanese
- 7 Being able to apply basic digital methods, tools and strategies in dealing with classical and modern Japanese.

#### **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**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

#### **Teaching methods**

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

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

Blended: on campus, en/ of online with class recordings via Ufora.  
Because of COVID19, changes may be made to the teaching forms, if necessary.

#### **Learning materials and price**

- A syllabus written by the lecturer (available via Ufora)
- *The New Nelson. Japanese-English Character Dictionary*. Completely revised by John H. Haig and the department of Asian Languages and Literatures at University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Rutland (Vermont), Tokyo: Charles E. Tuttle Company, 1997 (or latest edition); new, hard cover (recommended) c.a. \$ 42.- + shipping; paperback c.a. \$ 25.- + shipping).
- Ufora-documents

#### **References**

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

Interactive support via Ufora, Skype, and e-mail, personally: on appointment

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term 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**

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

not applicable

#### **Extra information on the examination methods**

Assessment  
Periodical: written examination (100%)

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

The periodical assessment (= written examination) counts for 100%.

#### **Facilities for Working Students**

1. Participation in the educational activities is required
2. The examination cannot be rescheduled.
3. Feedback can be given during an appointment during office hours.