

## Bungo IV (A005337)

**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 seminar
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**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Pinte, Klaus	LW21	staff member
Uhl, Christian	LW21	lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)</a>	<b>crdts</b>	<b>offering</b>
	5	A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Classical Japanese (*bungo*), Japanese language

**Position of the course**

This course is the third of four subsequent courses (Bungo II, III, IV, and V) that form an integral whole and introduce you in 16 exercises in total into the most significant grammatical phenomena and structures that distinguish *bungo* (so-called "classical Japanese") from the spoken language or *kōgo* (so-called "modern Japanese"; on the distinction of the two, please, consult the section "Position of the course" for the course "Bungo I").

Here, you will make the acquaintance of several *bungo*-specific auxiliary verbal suffixes and other grammatical issues. By means of extensive practical exercises you will learn to analyze and understand grammatically more complex *bungo* texts and text fragments from ancient times to the modern period.

These texts will also provide us again with plenty of opportunities to explore the social, cultural and intellectual history of Japan and to expand your Japanological expertise and repertoire.

**Contents**

In the four exercises of the course Bungo IV (exrcises 9-12), you will encounter the perfective *jodōshi* "r" and "tar" (exercise 9), become familiar with the *jodōshi* of epic past, "keri", and face a grammatical tribulation called the "kakari musubi-rule" (exercise 10). You will stumble repeatedly over the confusing conjunctive particle "de" (exercise 11), and eventually you will learn to handle the polysemous *jodōshi* "beshi" (exercise 12).

You will enjoy canonical and exotic ancient and modern poetry including the Japanese version of the socialist Internationale, or a rare translation of Goethe's Song of Mignon. Yet, our accumulating grammatical knowledge will also allow us to read our first longer passages from prose texts in classical and modern *bungo*, from the notorious *Taketori monogatari* to the first lines of Mori Ōgai's sublime novel, *Maihime*, or a passage taken from a modern law book.

In a nutshell: in Bungo IV too we will not only further enhance our grammatical skills and insights, but also embark again on a convoluted journey through the cultural, political and intellectual history of Japan, and through all kinds of manifestations and varieties of *bungo*.

### **Initial competences**

- This course is based on the knowledge acquired in the courses Bungo I to III.
- To have a passive knowledge of English.

### **Final competences**

- 1 Systematically understand more complex grammatical structures of Classical Japanese.
- 2 Analyzing and translating original source material by using dictionaries and other linguistic tools
- 3 Grasping significant texts in their historical, religio-philosophical, social and cultural contexts
- 4 Knowing (Classical) Japanese vocabulary and characters, as well as grammatical terms and concepts to analyze and tackle bungo
- 5 Being able to explain the evolution of the Japanese writing system and written language.
- 6 Using digital methods, tools and resources (dictionaries, etc.).

### **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

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

On campus, participation is mandatory.

### **Study material**

Type: Other

Name: Ufora course material and online dictionaries

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : intensive

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Additional information: Laptop required.

### **References**

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

Guidance via Ufora en Teams.

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Participation, Written assessment

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

not applicable

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

- Non-periodical assessments: written assignments and active participation
- Periodical assessment: oral examination (on campus)

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

- Non-periodical assessments: 25%
- Oral examination: 75%

**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.