

Dissertation Seminar (A005571)

Course size	<i>(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)</i>		
Credits 10.0	Study time 300 h	Contact hrs	30.0 h

Course offerings in academic year 2023-2024

A (year)	Dutch, English	Gent
B (year)	Dutch, English	Gent
C (year)	Dutch, English	Gent
D (year)	Dutch, English	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Torck, Mathieu	LW21	staff member
Dessein, Bart	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Anderl, Christoph	LW21	co-lecturer
Andreeva, Anna	LW21	co-lecturer
De Clercq, Eva	LW21	co-lecturer
De Simone, Daniela	LW21	co-lecturer
Heirman, Ann	LW21	co-lecturer
Kreil, Aymon	LW21	co-lecturer
Niehaus, Andreas	LW21	co-lecturer
Uhl, Christian	LW21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures)	10	A, B, C, D
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China)	10	A, B, C, D
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject India)	10	A, B, C, D
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Japan)	10	A, B, C, D
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Middle East Studies)	10	A, B, C, D

Teaching languages

Dutch, English

Keywords

Research, languages and cultures, Middle East studies, indology, sinology, japanology

Position of the course

This advanced course creates a framework in which the student further develops and perfects the competences acquired during his/her bachelor curriculum. This is done through individual assignments. The assignments the students are expected to carry out are mainly related to the Master's Dissertation and are, as such, in accordance with the specific requirements of the type of scientific research that is peculiar for the research group. Although the specific tasks may vary according to research group, all groups apply a common philosophy and working methods. This course is a continuation of 'Bachelor's Essay' of the Bachelor 3 program Oriental Languages and Cultures.

Contents

The course unit 'dissertation seminar' is the methodological support for the Master thesis. In function of the Master thesis, students are guided in the development and analysis of their individual research assignment. In addition to specific research-related methodological skills, language competences also play an important role. Oral and written presentations and reporting skills are emphasized.

Initial competences

Main subject Middle Eastern studies:

- To have a good knowledge of the political, social, and cultural history of the Middle East;
- To have intermediary knowledge of Media Arabic;
- To have intermediary knowledge of Egyptian Arabic;
- To have a good knowledge of the Arabo-Islamic heritage;
- To have a good knowledge of the main scholarly methods, theories and paradigms of Middle East studies;
- To have successfully completed 'Bachelor's Essay';
- To have receptive and productive knowledge of French and English.

Main subject India:

- To have a good knowledge of the history of South Asia;
- To have a profound knowledge of the classical Indian language and of Hindi;
- To be conversant with the tools for scholarly indological research;
- To successfully have completed 'Bachelor's Essay';
- Passive and active knowledge of French and English.

Main subject China:

- To have a good knowledge of the history of China and East Asia;
- To have a profound knowledge of Modern Chinese;
- To have a profound knowledge of Classical Chinese;
- To be conversant with the instruments used in scholarly sinological research;
- To have successfully completed 'Bachelor's Essay';
- To have passive and active knowledge of French and English.

Main subject Japan:

- To have a good knowledge of the history of East Asia;
- To have a profound knowledge of Modern Japanese;
- To have a profound knowledge of Classical Japanese;
- To be conversant with the instruments used in scholarly japanological research;
- To have a basic knowledge of the instruments used in scientific japanological research;
- To have successfully completed 'Bachelor's Essay';
- To have a passive knowledge of French and English.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to use a primary source for scholarly research;
- 2 To be able to use secondary source materials;
- 3 To be able to express a theoretical argumentation in writing;
- 4 To be able to express a theoretical argumentation orally;
- 5 To be able to use the university library's electronic databases (including E-journals);
- 6 To be able to write up a scholarly bibliography (literature review);
- 7 To be able to write a scholarly abstract in Arabic, Hindi, Chinese, or Japanese.

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, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods

The emphasis is on self-reliant study activities for which students receive guidance from the advisor of the Master's dissertation and that is refined and presented through seminars.

Learning materials and price

personal notes

References

For Middle East Studies:

Index Islamicus Online

Encyclopaedia of Islam: THREE

International Journal of Middle East Studies

Middle East Studies Association Bulletin

Review of Middle East Studies

Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient

For Indian languages:

L.Renou and J.Filliozat. *L'Inde classique* (vol.1 & 2)

For Chinese:

E. Wilkinson. *Chinese History. A Manual*. Revised and Enlarged. Harvard-Yenching Institute Monograph Series 84. Cambridge MA en London: Harvard University Asia Center, 2012

For Japanese:

Oguma, Eiji. *A Genealogy of 'Japanese Self-Images'*. Portland: Trans Pacific Press, 2002.

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Course content-related study coaching

Students are offered a floor which enables them to evaluate their research results and the progress of their master research on a regular basis. The professors and language teachers guide the students in integrating scientific material into a personal project, and on how to orally present their research results. Information is also announced via Ufora.

Evaluation methods

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Oral examination, participation, assignment, job performance assessment, peer assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Middle East Studies:

The evaluation consists of:

- 1 an extensive recension concerning the topic of the Master's dissertation (2,000 words; Dutch/English);
- 2 A position paper concerning the topic of the Master's dissertation (literature review, formulating the problem, methodology, sources/data, bibliography) (5,000 words; Dutch/English);
- 3 an extensive synopsis of the position paper in Modern Standard Arabic (2,500 words);
- 4 at least two oral presentations (Dutch/English) concerning the abovementioned synopsis (see 3.);
- 5 active participation during seminars.

Indology:

The evaluation consists of:

- 1 A preliminary draft in English about the Master's dissertation, with an abstract in Hindi;
- 2 a literature review concerning the Master's dissertation;
- 3 a first draft of a chapter of the Master's dissertation;
- 4 peer evaluation;
- 5 a written and oral report about an academic event situated within the main subject (lecture, conference, exhibition, etc.);
- 6 two presentations in Dutch/English: one about a relevant publication, and one about the topic

of the Master's dissertation.

Sinology:

The evaluation consists of:

- 1 a preliminary draft concerning the topic of the Master's dissertation in Dutch and an abstract in Chinese;
- 2 a literature review concerning the Master's dissertation;
- 3 a first draft of a chapter of the Master's dissertation;
- 4 peer evaluation;
- 5 two presentations in Dutch/English: one about the preliminary draft and the status quaestionis, and one about the topic of the Master's dissertation;
- 6 consultation with promotor.

Japanology:

The evaluation consists of:

- 1 A preliminary draft concerning the topic of the Master's dissertation in Dutch and an abstract in Japanese;
- 2 a literature review concerning the Master's dissertation;
- 3 a first draft of a chapter of the Master's dissertation;
- 4 peer evaluation
- 5 two presentations in English/Dutch: one about the state of research and one about the preliminary draft concerning the topic of the Master's dissertation;
- 6 consultation with promoter

Calculation of the examination mark

Middle East Studies:

70% written work (recension, position paper, synopsis) - 10% active presence in seminars - 20% oral presentations,

Indology:

10% preliminary draft and abstract – 20% bibliographic work - 20% chapter of Master's dissertation - 10% peer evaluation - 20% report about lecture (+ presentation of group work) - 20% presentations (2).

Sinology:

20% preliminary draft and abstract – 10% bibliographic work - 30% chapter of master's dissertation - 10% peer evaluatiion - 20 % presentations (2) - 10% consultation with promotor

Japanology:

Preliminary draft 10% - Bibliographic work (literature review) 10% - Chapter of master's dissertation 20% - Peer evaluation 5% - Conference lecture participation report (group work) 10% - Presentations (2) 20% - Japanese summary 15% - Participation during seminar 10%

For all groups:

Students have to pass for all parts individually, and for the totality of the course. 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

Facilities:

- 1 Student attendance during educational activities is required;
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year;
- 3 Feedback can be given during an appointment during and after office hours

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy