

## Contemporary Asian Academic Debates 1 (A005650)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 3.0** **Study time 90 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2025-2026**

A (semester 1)      English      Gent

**Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026**

Ravishankar, Akshara	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Stortini, Paride	LW21	co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026**

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures)	3	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China)	3	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	3	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	3	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Middle East Studies)	3	A
Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	3	A
Exchange Programme Cultures and Languages in Context	3	A
Exchange Programme Global Studies and World Societies	3	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	3	A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

Asia, Middle East, India, China, Japan, Korea, Humanities, Philosophy, Literature, Art History, Archaeology, History

**Position of the course**

This elective course allows students to widen their view on the world from a humanities perspective, by delving into some current research topics on Asia and their importance.

**Contents**

In this course, we will explore recent debates in Asian studies, with particular focus on canonical literatures in premodern and modern Asia. We will explore topics in intellectual history, historiography, political thought, and cultural histories of different areas, ranging from South Asia, East Asia, and West Asia. The course will critically analyze the construction of 'civilizational' thinking in Asia, primarily through literary cultures in history.

The autumn and spring semesters are two autonomous segments and can be taken separately. Each semester presents lectures on a unified topic, presented by researchers with expertise in different Asian regions and in a variety of disciplines. The first semester will be dedicated to "The Golden Age in Asia". In addition to becoming acquainted with new trends in scholarship, you will be trained to formulate research questions and develop critical skills.

**Initial competences**

No prior knowledge is necessary, but the student must be enrolled in a Humanities Master's program.

**Final competences**

- 1 In-depth understanding of the topics addressed in the class
- 2 The ability to formulate research questions
- 3 Awareness of the significance of research valorization

#### **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**

Group work, Seminar, Lecture

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

Additional teaching methods: participation, guided self-study

Extra information:

- Lecture: the lecturer gives an exposé on the text, and its content as well as theoretical and historical backgrounds.
- Group discussions/participation: in groups, students discuss the material to develop their own insights, hypotheses, etc.
- Guided self study: the teacher gives the students articles, videos, etc. to go through prior to the lectures. Students will be encouraged to develop skills in close reading primary texts (in translation).

#### **Study material**

Type: Reader

Name: Will be provided prior to the class

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

#### **References**

References per module will be provided well in advance via Ufora

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

Upon appointment (face-to-face or on MS Teams) or by email with teacher

#### **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**

Participation, Presentation

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

examination during the second examination period is possible

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

- Exam: written essay/s developing critical arguments around topics from the course.
- Participation: the student attends classes, completes assigned readings, and participates in class discussions.
- Presentations: Students will each present on one of the class modules, individually or in groups.

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

- Exam: 50%
- Class presentation: 25%
- Participation: 25%

Students will be required to pass each component of the evaluation in order to pass the course. Participation is essential to success in this course and consists of doing

the readings and actively participating in class discussions. Class presentations will be evaluated on the extent to which the student has engaged with the readings (no additional knowledge or research is required). In case a student is unable to fulfil one of these requirements, it is their responsibility to discuss possible solutions with the instructors.

**Facilities for Working Students**

Classes will be held in hybrid mode if needed, and further resources can be discussed with instructors based on need.