

Methods and Research 2 (A006638)

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

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)	Dutch, English	Gent
B (semester 2)	Dutch, English	Gent
C (semester 2)	Dutch, English	Gent
D (semester 2)	Dutch, English	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

De Rauw, Tom	LW21	staff member
Pinte, Klaus	LW21	staff member
Torck, Mathieu	LW21	staff member
Anderl, Christoph	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
De Clercq, Eva	LW21	co-lecturer
Markiewicz, Christopher	LW03	co-lecturer
Niehaus, Andreas	LW21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)	5	D
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (China Track))	5	A, B, C
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (UGent Track))	5	A, B, C
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A, B, C
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	5	A, B, C

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Methodology, research practice, East Asia, South Asia, China, Japan, India, research methods, Middle East, North Africa

Position of the course

This advanced course builds on the knowledge acquired in the course: "Method and Research I". The course aims to instruct the students how to independently find and use sources in the research in the field of Asian and North African studies. Under the supervision of the lecturer the student learns how to use these skills in order to write a first essay of limited scope. The student learns how to formulate and argue for the research results. During the course, theoretical and methodological insights will be deepened. The students will learn how to use AI in a responsible way. There will be more emphasis on the active and practical applications of these insights as compared to the "Methodology and Research I".

Contents

Sinology, Indology, Arabic & Islamic Studies: Based on exercises, the student will be instructed in how to formulate scholarly/scientific arguments. The students select a research topic from a list provided by the lecturers. Under the supervision of the teachers the topic selected by the student will be transformed into a research project which ultimately results in a scientific paper of limited scope (ca.

5000 words). In order to accomplish this task, the insights acquired during "Method and Research I" will be practically applied, in order to meet the formal standards and requirements of academic writing. The students will be guided during the different phases of scholarly research (choice of the topic, structure of the paper, writing an abstract, peer review, presentation). Practical as well as theoretical and methodological problems are discussed with the lecturers and fellow students in class. Students will be also obliged to present in class their topic and the methodology chosen.

Japanology: Students of Japan practice on the basis of the knowledge and skills obtained in the previous course (Method and Research I), to produce under the guidance of the respective teacher an academic paper of c.a. 5000 words on a subject chosen freely, or from an extensive list with suggestions. In between the choice of the subject and the submission of the paper, additional practical tasks have to be delivered, such as a bibliography, a structural outline, abstracts, or a presentation. The goal is a coherent paper, which meets the formal standard criteria of academic writing.

Initial competences

- Successful completion of the course "Method and Research I", or having acquired an equivalent competence in an alternative way.
- Basic knowledge of English, French, and German, in addition to Sanskrit/Hindi (Indology), Classical/Modern Chinese (Sinology), Classical/Modern Japanese (Japanology).
- The students are aware of the possibilities and limitations of the use of Artificial Intelligence

Final competences

- 1 To practically apply the techniques and insights acquired in 'Method and Research I'.
- 2 To be able to analyze scholarly/scientific texts and evaluate their relevance for the one's research topic.
- 3 To be able to find, evaluate, and use research data and information.
- 4 To develop methodological skills.
- 5 To deepen the theoretical support.
- 6 To be able to approach a topic in a methodological way and to apply a theoretical framework.
- 7 To acquire the knowledge to communicate research results in a structured and coherent way.
- 8 To be able to independently write an academic paper of ca. 5000 words under supervision of the instructors.
- 9 To be able to use AI for research in a responsible way.

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, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

In consultation with the lecturers, students choose a topic on the history, society, culture, literature or language of South Asia / East Asia. During seminars, textual analysis and writing of an abstract are practiced. During the contact hours, students discuss the progress of their research with each other, and revise their work under the supervision of the instructors.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: PPT presentations

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Reader

Name: Reader

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Handouts

Name: Handouts

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

References

All general material will be provided via Ufora (not included are the sources which the students need for writing their various papers).

Course content-related study coaching

The assignments and the possibility for weekly consultations with the teacher provide ample opportunity for feedback. Electronic support via Ufora and e-mail, and individually on appointment.

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

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Sinology:

Paper: 70%

Participation, presentation, exercises, etc.: 30%

Arabic & Islamic Studies:

Paper: 70%

Participation, presentation, exercises, etc.: 30%

Japanology:

Presentation: 20%

Paper + related assignments (abstract, etc.): 80%

Indology:

Paper: 70% (incl. abstract)

Peer review: 10%

Presentation, etc.: 20%

Calculation of the examination mark

Sinology:

Paper: 70%

Participation, presentation, exercises, etc.: 30%

Arabic & Islamic Studies:

Paper: 70%

Participation, presentation, exercises, etc.: 30%

Japanology:

Presentation: 20%

Paper + related assignments (abstract, etc.): 80%

Indology:

Paper: 70% (incl. abstract)

Peer review: 10%

Presentation, etc.: 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. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Alternative time for feedback is possible

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