

Wenyan I (A006643)

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 1)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

De Rauw, Tom

LW21

staff member

Heirman, Ann

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (China Track))

crdts 5

offering A

Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (UGent Track))

5

A

Elective Set Languages of Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Wenyan, Classical Chinese, Chinese language

Position of the course

This introductory course helps students

1) to situate *wenyan* ('culture-language'; Classical Chinese) within the study of the Chinese language and helps them to interpret the role of Classical Chinese as the lingua franca of East Asia. This course introduces students to the basic structures of Classical Chinese and the basic characters of Classical Chinese (reading, writing and pronunciation). Frequently, and wherever it may be relevant, the course will make links with Modern Chinese structures as taught in the course Modern Chinese I.

2) to understand the basis of traditional culture. Some essential topics will be introduced, such as the role of language and script, and the basis of the historical and linguistic background.

Contents

By means of short Chinese texts, basic vocabulary and basic structures of Classical Chinese are analysed, and the study of Classical Chinese is situated within the larger framework of the study of the Chinese language. Attention is also paid to the role of Classical Chinese as the lingua franca of East Asia, and to relevant similarities and differences with Modern Chinese.

In addition, the basis of traditional culture is discussed. Some essential topics will be introduced, such as the role of language and script, and the basis of the historical and linguistic background.

Initial competences

A passive knowledge of English.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to situate *wenyan*/Classical Chinese within the study of the Chinese language.
- 2 To understand the basic background of Chinese language.
- 3 To be able to interpret the role of *wenyan*/Classical Chinese as the lingua franca of East Asia.
- 4 To be able to read, write, and pronounce basic characters of *wenyan*/Classical

Chinese.

- 5 To be able to understand, analyse and use basic structures of *wenyan*/Classical Chinese.
- 6 To be able to translate basic structures of *wenyan*/Classical Chinese into Dutch.
- 7 To be able to translate elementary texts from Chinese to Dutch and to analyse elementary syntactic structures.
- 8 To be able to point to relevant links between Classical and Modern Chinese.
- 9 To be able to discuss the role of language and script within traditional Chinese culture.
- 10 To be able to place texts within their basic historical background.

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

Guided exercises: in the guided exercises attention goes to reading and writing skills, translation and analysis of basic structures, and to the background of Chinese language and culture. The assimilation of this knowledge and skills with other knowledge and skills, f.i. acquired in Modern Chinese I, is also of importance.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Wenyan I and II, theory and exercises

Indicative price: € 20

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : No

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Additional information: The syllabus can be used for both Wenyan I and II.

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint presentations and lists of characters

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

References

Kerstens, J. en A. Sturm. *Beknopte grammatica van het Nederlands*. Bussum: Coutinho, 2002

Barnes, A., D. Starr and G. Ormerod. *Du's Handbook of Classical Chinese Grammar*. Writersprintshop, 2009

Course content-related study coaching

Class exercises offer the students a continuous feedback. Exercises can be discussed individually.

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

Written assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment moment

Periodical: written examination (50%) and non-periodical evaluation: continuous assessment (50%)

Students have to pass both parts (if a student does not pass the non-periodical evaluation, a second chance is offered by means of a compensatory activity at the second exam period).

Assessment form

- Periodical: there is a written examination. This written examination focuses (60%) on reading and writing skills, translation of Classical Chinese to Dutch and the analysis of basic structures of Classical Chinese. Also knowledge of the basic theoretical elements of Classical Chinese and a comparison with Modern Chinese will be examined. In addition, knowledge of the topics on linguistic background and traditional culture discussed during the semester is examined (40%).

- Continuous assessment: two tests at regular intervals examine the knowledge of the Chinese characters and of the basic grammar of Classical Chinese. In addition, the tests ask for short translations from Classical Chinese to Dutch.

Calculation of the examination mark

The periodical assessment (= written examination) counts for 50%; the non-periodical continuous assessment (= two tests) equally counts for 50%.

Students have to pass both parts (= the periodical and the non-periodical assessments).

Results of 10 out of 20 and above on the periodical assessment or on the continuous assessment (= the total of the two tests) can be transferred to the second examination session.

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 strongly recommended in order to be able to successfully follow the course.
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the examination period.
- 3 Feedback can be given online, or at an appointment during and after office hours.