

Wenyan III (A006645)

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
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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))	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (UGent Track))	5	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Wenyan, Classical Chinese, Chinese language

Position of the course

This intermediate course teaches students how to use linguistic research and secondary literature when studying *wenyan* ('culture-language'; Classical Chinese) source material. It shows them how to translate (under supervision) the main Chinese texts of the classical period into Dutch. The course also teaches students how to understand the role of Classical Chinese texts within historical, religious-philosophical, social and cultural evolutions, and how to substantiate the results of such research.

Contents

By means of excerpts from the main philosophical (Confucian, Taoist, Mohist, Legalist) and historical texts of traditional China, basic structures of Classical Chinese are being analysed in depth. Texts will be placed in a historical, religious-philosophical, social and cultural contexts, complementary to other courses taught in BA 1 and 2. The use of relevant secondary literature is equally discussed.

Initial competences

- To have successfully completed the course Wenyan II or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.
- To have a passive knowledge of English.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to translate (under supervision) basic texts of *wenyan*/Classical Chinese into Dutch.
- 2 To be able to use linguistic research and secondary literature when studying *wenyan*/Classical Chinese sources.
- 3 To be able to critically think about grammatical issues.
- 4 To be able to study the role of *wenyan*/Classical Chinese texts within the historical, religious-philosophical, social and cultural evolution.
- 5 To be able to discuss research results.

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

Guided exercises: in the guided exercises attention goes to the assimilation of the theoretical elements, grammatical structures, and the relevant historical, religious-philosophical, social and cultural context, taking into account scientific literature.

Attention also goes to reading skills, translation and the analysis of advanced structures.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Pulleyblank, E.G., *Outline of Classical Chinese Grammar*, Vancouver, University of British Columbia Press, 1995

Indicative price: € 35

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Edwin Pulleyblank

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : intensive

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Type: Syllabus

Name: Wenyan III and IV, 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 Wenyan III and IV.

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

A dictionary: Kroll, Paul W. *A Student's Dictionary of Classical and Medieval Chinese*. Leiden: Brill, 2014.

Course content-related study coaching

The class exercises offer the students a continuous feedback, also via Ufora.

Individual feedback is also provided.

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 written examination. This examination focuses on a translation of a Classical Chinese text into Dutch, and evaluates how the student places the text in a historical, religious-philosophical, social, cultural and linguistic framework.

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 translations of short Chinese texts.

Calculation of the examination mark

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

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

Results of 10 out of 20 and above 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.