

Wenyan IV (A006646)

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 2)	Dutch	Gent	seminar	0.0h
			excursion	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

	crdts	offering
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

In this intermediate course, attention goes to the place of *wenyan* ('culture-language'; Classical Chinese) sources in the historical and contemporary Chinese context. In this course, students learn to use secondary literature relevant when studying Classical Chinese source material. Students are taught to translate (under supervision) major Chinese texts of the classical period into Dutch. The course shows them how to do research on the role of Classical Chinese texts within the historical, religious-philosophical, social and cultural evolutions, and how to discuss the results of this research.

Contents

By means of excerpts from the main philosophical (Confucian, Taoist, Mohist, Legalist) and historical texts of Classical China, basic structures of Classical Chinese are being analysed and translated. The place and impact of these texts in historical and contemporary China is focused upon. Texts will thus be placed in a historical, religious-philosophical, social and cultural context, complementary to other courses taught in BA 1 and 2. In the framework of some tasks (including an excursion), knowledge and competences are applied.

Initial competences

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

Final competences

- 1 To be able to use secondary literature while studying *wenyan*/Classical Chinese source material.
- 2 To be able to translate basic *wenyan*/Classical Chinese texts into Dutch (under supervision).
- 3 To be able to study the role of *wenyan*/Classical Chinese texts within the historical, religious-philosophical, social and cultural evolution.
- 4 To be able to study the role of *wenyan*/Classical Chinese texts in contemporary

China.

5 To be able to discuss research findings.

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, Excursion

Extra information on the teaching methods

Guided exercises: in the guided exercises attention goes to the place of Classical Chinese texts in the relevant historical, contemporary, religious-philosophical, social and cultural context, taking into account scientific literature. Attention also goes to reading skills, translation, and analysis of advanced structures.

With a visit to a museum (Paris, London ...), a critical approach to the historical context of traditional China is focused upon. A questionnaire serves as a guide to the students. If needed, the visit will be virtual.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Sterckx, Roel. Chinese Thought: From Confucius to Cook Ding. London: Pelican Books, 2019.

Indicative price: € 30

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Author : Roel Sterckx

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : regularly

Additional information: There is both a Dutch and an English version of this book.

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

Type: Excursion

Name: Excursion museum (Paris)

Indicative price: € 100

Optional: no

Additional information: The price depends on the transport chosen (bus, train, travel way). The museum is free of costs.

Type: Other

Name: Dictionary: A Student's Dictionary of Classical and Medieval Chinese.

Indicative price: € 58

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Paul Kroll

Available on Ufora : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : intensive

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Additional information: This dictionary can be used during the bachelor and master studies.

References

Wagner, Donald. *A Mencius Reader*. Copenhagen: NIAS Press, 2004

Course content-related study coaching

The class exercises offer the students a continuous feedback. 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

Oral assessment

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

Oral 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

1) Periodical: oral examination (50%, including portfolio)

2) non-periodical evaluation: continuous assessment (two tests) (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 an oral examination, with a written preparation. This examination evaluates how the student reads Classical Chinese texts and places these texts in a historical, contemporary, religious-philosophical, social and cultural context, and how he/she can present texts (primarily *Mengzi*) individually studied. Also the excursion (active participation and portfolio with questions) will be evaluated at the oral examination.

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 (= oral examination) counts for 50%; the non-periodical assessment (two tests) 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.