

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

(See also General Regulations)

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

The degree of Master of Arts (MA) is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study in one of the following fields: China Area Studies; Chinese Historical Studies; Comparative Asian Studies; English Studies; Linguistics and Literary and Cultural Studies. These fields of study will not necessarily be offered every year.

MA 1 Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Arts a candidate

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;¹
- (b) shall hold
 - (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University; or
 - (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
- (c) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

MA 2 Qualifying examination

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidate's formal academic ability or his ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report.
- (b) A candidate who is required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until he has satisfied the examiners in the examination.

MA 3 Award of degree

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Arts a candidate

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations; and
- (b) shall complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.

MA 4 Length of curriculum

The curriculum shall extend

- (a) for the MA in China Area Studies, the MA in Chinese Historical Studies, the MA in Comparative Asian Studies and the MA in English Studies over not less than one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study with a minimum of 300 hours of prescribed work; and

¹ In addition to the TOEFL requirement specified in General Regulation G 2, the Faculty also requires *either* a Test of Written English (TWE) score of 4 or above *or* an Essay Rating score of 4.0 or above in the computer-based TOEFL (not applicable to the MA in Chinese Historical Studies).

- (b) for the MA in Linguistics and the MA in Literary and Cultural Studies over not less than two academic years of part-time study with a minimum of 300 hours of prescribed work.

MA 5 Completion of curriculum

To complete the curriculum, a candidate

- (a) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work;
- (b) shall complete and present a satisfactory dissertation on a subject within his approved field of study; and
- (c) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination as detailed in the syllabuses.

The examiners may also prescribe an oral examination.

Coursework may be taken into account as prescribed in the syllabus.

MA 6 Title of dissertation

The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses for each field of study; similarly, the dissertation shall be presented by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses for each field of study; the candidate shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents his own work (or in the case of conjoint work, a statement countersigned by his co-worker, which shows his share of the work) undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree.

MA 7 Examinations

- (a) The assessment for each course shall be as specified in the syllabus. Where a project has been accepted in lieu of the written paper a candidate shall follow the normal courses of instruction but shall be examined by means of assessment of the project instead of a written paper. The project shall be treated for all purposes as the equivalent of one paper.
- (b) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in any one course but has presented a satisfactory dissertation may be permitted to present himself for re-examination in the failed course on a specified date not less than two months nor more than twelve months after the publication of results.
- (c) A candidate who has presented an unsatisfactory dissertation but has satisfied the examiners in all the courses may be permitted to revise the dissertation and re-present it within a specified period of not less than two months and not more than twelve months after receipt of a notice that it is unsatisfactory.
- (d) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in two courses but has presented a satisfactory dissertation may be permitted to present himself for re-examination in the papers of failure at specified dates not less than two months nor more than twelve months after the publication of the results.
- (e) A candidate who has presented an unsatisfactory dissertation and has failed to satisfy the examiners in any one course may be permitted to present himself for re-examination in the paper of failure and to revise and re-present the dissertation within a specified period of not less than two months nor more than twelve months after the publication of the results.

MA 8

- (a) A candidate who is not permitted to present himself for re-examination in any paper or papers in which he has failed to satisfy the examiners or to revise and re-present his dissertation shall be deemed to have failed and shall be recommended for discontinuation under the provisions of General Regulation G 12.
- (b) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in a second attempt in any paper or papers or in his dissertation may be required to discontinue his studies.

MA 9 Examination results

At the conclusion of the examination, and after presentation of the dissertation, a pass list shall be published in alphabetical order. A candidate who has shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidate's degree diploma.

MA 10 Supplementary examination

Candidates who are unable because of illness to be present for any written examination may apply for permission to present themselves for a supplementary examination. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of absence from any examination. The supplementary examination shall be held at a time to be determined by the M.A. Board of Examiners. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in the supplementary examination shall be considered as failure at the first attempt.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

CHINA AREA STUDIES

The curriculum is on a full-time basis and normally extends over one year. Applicants will normally be required to hold a good honours degree or its equivalent in an appropriate subject.

The programme provides an opportunity to local and international students for systematic training and independent research on development issues in contemporary China.

Candidates are expected to take six courses and complete a dissertation (i.e. 'GEOG7113 Dissertation in China Area Studies'), the latter being deemed equivalent to two courses. **Candidates are also required to participate in the field trip (i.e. 'GEOG7116 China field trip'), which is a partial requirement for the fulfillment of the programme.** The six courses comprise four compulsory courses and two elective courses. An adequate number of elective courses will be offered to students in each academic year. Candidates are expected to take a minimum of **three and up to a maximum of five** courses in the first semester. The remaining course(s) and dissertation shall be completed in the second semester. Each course entails one session of two contact hours per week over one semester. The schedule for the teaching of coursework conforms to the undergraduate teaching year. Courses will be examined by a combination of coursework assessment and a written examination normally held at the end of the semester, or by coursework assessment alone.

In addition to the normal requirement for completing the six courses, dissertation, and China field trip in fulfillment of the degree, candidates will have the opportunity to take the Optional course ‘GEOG7119 Internship’ as an extra effort to further enhance their learning horizon in this programme. The provision of internship placements is subject to availability and selection via interview. Candidates’ successful participation in the Internship would be recorded in the transcript.

A. Compulsory Courses

GEOG7101. The Chinese economies: location, transformation, and integration

An overview of the location, transformation, and integration of regional economies in China’s mainland, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macao. Major theoretical perspectives are introduced to explain the growth dynamics of the Chinese economies and the shifting spatial distribution of economic activities.

GEOG7102. Geography of foreign investment and trade in China

This course analyzes the growth and locational characteristics of foreign investment and trade since the implementation of the open door policy. The impact of foreign investment and international trade on China’s regional economic development is also discussed.

GEOG7104. Urbanization and urban problems in China

This course focuses on the Chinese urbanization patterns and policies since the founding of the PRC. Between 1949 and 1978, urban fabric, urban landscapes and activities developed within a narrowly restricted range related to the socialist state and the shortage economy. The economic reforms have weakened those forces, and an increasingly complex and diverse urban life arose. The processes and consequences of these forces will be discussed.

GEOG7117. Public policies and regional development

A seminar-type course about the concept, theory, and practice of regional development. Course contents include the changing interpretation of the concept of regional development; key policy issues in the practice of regional development and different approaches to regional development in selected world regions.

B. Elective Courses

GEOG7106. Methodological issues in geography

This course is to guide students through the process of identifying and developing a research/dissertation proposal. Weekly meetings are organized to facilitate consultation, discussion, and successful development of a research proposal. Students are required to deliver oral and written presentations at the end.

GEOG7108. China’s tourism resources and management

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to China’s tourism resources and management. Students are encouraged to trace the evolution of China’s development policies regarding tourism resources and management, as well as the organizations of the tourism industry including hotel businesses and recreation.

This course is offered on a biennial odd year basis, i.e. in 2003-04, and so on.

GEOG7114. China's WTO accession and spatial economic transformation

At the beginning of the new millennium, with the imminent and landmark accession into the World Trade Organization (WTO), China will no doubt continue to be a world focus of growing importance in business, trade, investment, and even politics. With the unprecedented opening of China to the outside world in almost all sectors of the economy – from agriculture to manufacturing, and from service and finance sectors to IT industry – the impacts of WTO accession on China will be enormous and pervasive. This course examines these impacts, both spatial and sectoral, based on the theory and perspectives of geography of trade and finance. It will equip students with basic theory and reasoning on global trade regime (WTO), economic integration, and geography of finance in explaining dynamics and patterns of global economic transactions. It will also provide students with a better understanding and knowledge of the possible impacts of WTO on China's spatial economic transformation. These impacts include macro economic growth, state enterprise reform, corporate activities in flotation, merging and acquisition, and sectoral (industrial as well as spatial) urban and financial centre restructuring, such as the impacts on future development of financial centres in Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong.

The course emphasizes the combination of theory and practical knowledge and skill. The main purpose of the course is to enhance students' comprehensive ability of critical thinking and problem solving, as well as their actual ability of observing, identifying and judging business opportunity in the commercial sector in the face of rapid global economic transformation. In order to increase students' practical skill and knowledge of how an investment bank or a stock exchange market operates, the course will invite practitioners from the field to give guest lectures and seminars. And more importantly, the course will try to establish an internship or in-house field studies in mainland investment banks and stock exchange markets. This field intake, though being tentative depending on opportunities, could be integrated with the field trip requirement of MACHAS programme, and it will be conducted on a voluntary and self-finance basis.

GEOG7118. China: environment and sustainable development

This course comprises three main sections. Section I provides an overview of the state of China's natural environment. This is followed by a discussion of the institutional, legislative and administrative systems for environmental protection and nature conservation. Finally, Section III assesses government policies for sustainable development as spelled out in recent Five-Year Plans and in China's Agenda 21.

This course is offered on a biennial even year basis, i.e. in 2002-03, and so on.

C. Additional Pedagogic Requirements

GEOG7113. Dissertation in China area studies (equivalent to two courses)

The dissertation shall be a structured presentation of findings of guided independent research on a topic which addresses a topic of Chinese development. The topic shall be chosen by the candidate and the dissertation shall be 10,000-20,000 words. Candidates are expected to present the dissertation orally in the Contemporary China Seminars series and in written form as well. The dissertation carries a weighting equivalent to two courses. Successful dissertations to be lodged in the Library shall be subject to the correction of typographical, grammatical and/or other errors as determined by the examiners. The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval no later than the last day of the first semester. The first draft of the dissertation shall be submitted to the supervisors by June 15 of each academic year for comments and suggestions for making revisions, and the final bound copy of the dissertation shall be submitted to the Department of Geography for examination.

GEOG7116. China field trip

A field trip, with linkage to any one of the **Core** or Elective courses, would be organized to provide students with the opportunity to examine first hand development issues and problems in China. **The field trip is a required component of the programme.** Candidates are encouraged to incorporate the field trip into their dissertation.

GEOG7119. Internship

This is an **Optional** course to provide interested students with internship placement to learn by involvement in the basic practical knowledge and operational process of a trading firm, a business company, a multi-national enterprise, or a manufacturing factory. The students can become familiar with the company's development strategies and management procedures, as well as possible problems in doing business in Mainland China. In order to be mutually beneficial, students are requested to conduct research project(s) for their internship sponsor, with a view to participating in the company's attempts to solve practical problems. This research project would be treated as the students' assignment of the internship, and be assessed by both the company's officials and teachers. The period of the internship placement lasts normally up to one month, with a variation in duration. Internships are subject to availability of places and selection via interview by prospective sponsors.

Contemporary China Seminars

Candidates will be required to attend a series of seminars to be offered by scholars from Hong Kong, China and overseas on the issues of developments in contemporary China. They will also be required to present findings from their independent dissertation research in the seminar series.

D. Coursework

Candidates must satisfy the examiners in coursework assessment for each of the papers (excluding the dissertation). The assessment of coursework will include written assignments, candidates' seminar presentations, their role as discussant for other students' seminars, their general contribution to seminars, and other relevant activities, including field trips.

E. Examinations

Examinations will be held at the end of the semester when the course is taken. Candidates must satisfy all coursework requirements before proceeding to prepare the dissertation. Candidates failing to satisfy the examiners in the first semester may be re-examined before the commencement of the second semester of study. Candidates who are not permitted to sit supplementary examinations and/or to re-present their unsatisfactory dissertation may be recommended to repeat their studies. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in more than four courses, with the dissertation being deemed equivalent to two courses, may be recommended to discontinue their studies.

CHINESE HISTORICAL STUDIES

The curriculum is on a part-time basis only and normally extends over two years. A good honours degree or its equivalent in an appropriate subject together with a good command of both Chinese and English will normally be required. Where candidates are deemed not to have attained this standard, they may be required to pass a qualifying examination.

Candidates will follow and be examined on four courses of instruction, and will also submit a short research paper. The latter shall not be of more than 10,000 words if written in English or 30,000 characters if written in Chinese. Examiners may also take into account seminar papers prepared by candidates during the course. The four courses listed below will be offered:

CHIN7001. 1. Material and methodology

Oracle bone inscriptions
Bamboo inscriptions
Dun-huang manuscripts
Documents (Ming, Qing, Republican and Communist periods).

CHIN7002. 2. Historiography (Chinese)

Chinese historiography up to the Ming period
Leading historians of the Qing period
Leading historians of the Republican and Communist periods.

CHIN7003. 3. Historiography (Western)

Writings on the history of China in western languages from the eighteenth century.

CHIN7004. 4. Special topic

(This should be chosen from themes dealt with in papers 2 and 3.)

Unless otherwise specified, candidates must answer the examination questions in the language in which they are set. Candidates must satisfy the examiners in each of four three-hour papers in the courses offered.

For certain special topics or long essays, candidates may be required to show a satisfactory knowledge of a relevant third language.

The dissertation title shall be submitted for approval by March 31 of the second year of study, and the dissertation shall be submitted by the end of the academic year (August 31 of second year of study).

COMPARATIVE ASIAN STUDIES

The objective of the MA in Comparative Asian Studies is to train students in essential background and contemporary knowledge of Asia. The course involves humanistic and institutional aspects of Asian civilizations in historical and comparative perspective.

The emphasis is on comparison between and among different regions and societies of Asia, with attention to both contrasts and commonalities.

Candidates must take a total of eight courses, which will be designated from among those listed below, and present a dissertation. Not all courses will necessarily be offered in any cycle: normally, eight courses will be selected and offered by the teaching staff.

The form of the presentation of the course is flexible, with emphasis upon seminar discussion, reading and written exercises. Students will be exposed to methodology - study and research methods - at an early stage in the MA course.

MACS6001. Introduction to Asia

This course is a broad survey of the region in historical, geographical and political perspectives and aims to provide essential background to the remainder of the programme of study. Beginning with the physical and human geography of the continent, it proceeds to a rapid overview of the major religious traditions that have predominated in Asia, then moves on to the evolution of states, the impact of imperialism, the rise of nationalism, and the political and economic developments of the past half-century. Map quizzes and bibliographic exercises should refresh the information and skills candidates will need in other courses within this programme. (50% coursework assessment)

MACS6002. Country course

Normally, in each 2-year round of the MACAS programme, a country course will be required of all students. This course will take an intensive look at a country (or countries) to which a field trip, also required, will be taken. The object of the course and field trip is to provide both theoretical and practical experience with at least one of the countries studied in this programme. (50% coursework assessment)

MACS6003. Asian philosophy

This course is a comparative survey of the major systems of thought in China. The organization will be broadly historical to provide a background to understanding the relevance of the contrasting features of Chinese thought on contemporary social and political issues. It will introduce classical Confucianism, Mohism, Daoism and Legalism, focusing mainly on their social-political theories and disagreements. South-Asian Hinduism, Islam and Buddhism will be briefly surveyed and the related difficulties in importing Buddhism into China and the shaping of Chinese versions of Buddhism and their transmission to China will be discussed. Finally the course will show how these themes blend into the dominant Neo-Confucian synthesis that shaped the modern response to the West. (50% coursework assessment)

MACS6004. Asian values, human rights, and democracy movements

This course will focus on the East Asian challenge to Western liberal democracy. Topics such as the East Asian contribution to the international discourse on human rights and the relevance of liberal democracy in an East Asian context will be discussed, as well as empirical questions such as the prospects of democracy movements in various East Asian countries. (50% coursework assessment)

MACS6005. The contest of ethical-political conceptions in contemporary Asia (China, Hong Kong)

This course will examine various ethical-political conceptions that play or might play a major role in the Asian, particularly the Chinese/Hong Kong, context. These conceptions include, among others, liberalism, Confucianism, socialism, and variants within each. Whether these conceptions are Asian or Western in origin, they will have to be placed in the Asian and Chinese context to see what role each can play, what transformations each is likely to undergo on contemporary Asian soil, and how these conceptions might work with or against each other. (50% coursework assessment)

MACS6006. Asian cultures, sub-cultures and popular cultures

This course will examine the rapidly changing face of Asian cultures. It will explore the extent to which traditional cultures are subjected to pressures from the emerging sub-cultures and popular cultures and how these changes affect modern ways of thinking and lifestyle. It will also examine the extent to which Asian cultures attempt to globalise to suit the modern image while the popular cultures localised to suit the needs of the local community. (50% coursework assessment)

MACS6007. Ethnicity and identity in Asia

This course will examine the relationship between ethnic and national identity in modern Asian nation states. It will discuss the various policies by the state to establish an acceptable framework to promote multiculturalism and affirmative actions for their ethnic population and the consequences of these policies. It will also explore how the ethnic population attempts to carve an identity within the dominant culture and how they use their ethnic attributes to their advantage. (50% coursework assessment)

MACS6008. Social institutions, networks and globalisation in Asia

This course will examine the roles of social and religious institutions among various groups in Asia. It will study how these social and religious institutions are important networks for bringing the groups together and provide them with the structure where they conduct social interaction. It will also discuss how these institutions serve as important economic and political networks to further the goals of these people. Finally, it will discuss the impact of these institutions as they globalise to serve similar institutions in the wider global community. (50% coursework assessment)

MACS6009. Customary and religious laws in contemporary Asian societies

This course will explore the various types of customary and religious laws and their impact on the people that are affected by these laws. It will focus on traditional marriage law, inheritance law, and Islamic family law in relation to the patriarchal structure of these societies. It will discuss the influence of these laws on social customs of the various groups and the consequences on both sexes. These include an exploration into Chinese marriage law and its impact on concubinage and footbinding in the Chinese society and the changes in modern day Chinese societies. The Islamic family law and its impact on marriage and the four wives syndrome, the seclusion of women in public places and denial of education and other social welfare and how these continue to influence modern Islamic lifestyle. Finally, it will explore the Hindu religious law and the custom of suttee and caste structure. (50% coursework assessment)

MACS6010. Asian history and historiography

This course is an overview of how Asian history has been recorded and analysed by both Asian and non-Asian historians, with particular attention to modern interpretations and the question of 'Orientalism'. It will consider the evolution of the writing of history both in the West and in various Asian societies, looking at how it changed from purely cultural myth to something more systematic, perhaps even a 'science.' It will then look at the problems involved in studying a culture that is not one's 'own,' and in particular at the ways in which Westerners have constructed the 'Orient,' and compare it with ways in which Asians have written both about their own societies and about other Asians. Is there a uniquely 'Chinese' way of writing the history of China, and if so, how does it differ from other histories? (50% coursework assessment)

MACS6011. Imperialism and nationalism in modern Asia

This course offers a description and analysis of two of the major themes in modern Asian history, focusing on their interaction and on their contested meanings. Although these phenomena are usually associated with the 19th-century expansion of Western power in Asia and indigenous resistance to it, both are more complex than they seem at first. The course looks at the history of the term 'imperialism' and how it has evolved, as well as various efforts to interpret it. It will address such questions as 'Did Lenin explain imperialism or simply redefine it? Is imperialism necessarily connected with capitalism? Is imperialism a Western phenomenon, or are there Asian imperialisms as well? Can imperialism survive decolonisation?' Nationalism will be similarly questioned: 'What is a 'nation'? Is it merely an 'imagined community'? Can nationalism be distinguished from patriotism? Is modern nationalism in Asia significantly different from ancient tribalism?' (50% coursework assessment)

MACS6012. The city in Asian history

This course examines the evolution of urban centres in Asia from ancient ritual sites and port cities to 20th-century metropolises. After considering the definition of a 'city' (is it simply a settlement of a certain size, or does it have distinctive characteristics?), it examines the origins of Asian cities, the way they operated in the pre-colonial past, and the way they changed shape, size, composition, and function in response to imperialism and capitalism. It will look at both the advantages of cities, in terms of concentrations of wealth, culture, and infrastructure, and their disadvantages, in such areas as health, food supply, and public order. This course, when offered, should provide a useful background for MACS6013, 'Asian Urbanism,' which deals more with the contemporary scene. (50% coursework assessment)

MACS6013. Asian urbanism

This course examines the causes, contours and consequences of the urbanization process in both developed and developing Asian countries from historical, geographical, social, and economic perspectives. (50% coursework assessment)

MACS6014. Environment and development

This course reviews critical concepts and examines major debates pertaining to the consideration and possible integration of environmental factors within the larger development processes in both developed and developing countries in the Asian region. (50% coursework assessment)

MACS6015. Tourism in Asia

This course will focus around the main theme of 'Tourism in Asia' to discuss the following topics:

- Potentials and prospects for tourism in Asia
- Economic, social and environmental impacts of tourism in Asian countries
- Asia's Tourism planning and management
- Theories and methods for tourism planning in Asia
- Tourism planning evaluation in Asian countries
- Case study analysis of tourism practice in an Asian country
- Chinese tourism in the 21st century

The exploration of the aforementioned topics will offer students an overview of the potentials and problems of the tourism industry in Asia. The knowledge and method learned from this course will enhance the students' problem-solving capability in the field. In the meantime, students of this course are expected to carry out their independent case studies of tourism planning and management. (50% coursework assessment)

Dissertation

Each student will present a dissertation of 10,000-15,000 words as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the MA degree. The dissertation title shall be submitted for approval in January of the second year of study and the dissertation itself shall be submitted by June 15 of that year. The subject of the dissertation must be comparative in nature. Successful dissertation, to be lodged in the Library, shall be subject to the correction of typographical, grammatical or other errors as determined by the examiners.

Field Trip

A required field trip of at least one week's duration will normally be staged. This will be in conjunction with MACS6002 Country Course when it is offered. (100% coursework assessment)

Coursework Assessment

Candidates must satisfy the examiners in the coursework assessment for each of the papers (excluding the dissertation). The assessment of coursework will be based on written assignments, candidates' seminar presentations, their role as discussant for other students' seminars, their general contribution to seminars, and other relevant activities.

Examinations

Examinations will be held at the end of each semester in the courses completed in that semester, except for the examination for **Introduction to Asia**, which will be held after the completion of that course. Candidates must satisfy the examiners in each examination before proceeding to the next year. Candidates failing to satisfy the examiners in one or more examinations may be re-examined before the commencement of the next year of study.

ENGLISH STUDIES

The curriculum for the MA in English Studies is available in both full-time and part-time modes. The full-time course takes one academic year to complete; the part-time mode takes two years. Applicants will normally hold a good honours degree or its equivalent in an appropriate subject.

The MA in English Studies provides an advanced academic programme in the linguistics, literature and culture of the English language. It consists of six courses and a dissertation. **Full-time** candidates take three courses per semester. After completing six courses, full-time candidates receive supervision for their dissertations. **Part-time** candidates take not more than two courses per semester and receive dissertation support from the beginning of their fourth semester. Part-time candidates are required to take six courses over four semesters. Each course is one semester in length and meets once a week for a three hours session.

ENGL7003. 1. The English language: a structural approach

A structural approach to the analysis of English, looking at the levels of phonetics and phonology, morphology, grammar and syntax, and semantics.

ENGL7004. 2. Modernism

Early twentieth century writing in English, with attention to the formal innovations and intellectual issues of modernist practice, and an introduction to literary theory and criticism.

ENGL7005. 3. English grammar and meaning

The study of the intricate relationships between form and meaning in English grammar. Three major topics will be explored: lexical and grammatical categories, tense and aspect, and argument structure.

ENGL7006. 4. Postmodernism

Late twentieth century literature in English, and the theories of postmodernity that seek to describe and criticise it.

ENGL7007. 5. The politics of English

The politics of language in the context of national Englishes, world Englishes, English in Asia, English in education and the media, English in Hong Kong.

ENGL7008. 6. Postcolonial writing in English

'World literature in English', and the debates about nation, culture, language and identity in which it participates.

ENGL6053. 7. Special topics in English Studies

The aim of the course is to introduce candidates to the topics which are of relevance to research study but have not been taken previously. Candidates will be instructed to take an undergraduate course or a combination of undergraduate courses from the department or a course of lectures/seminars for postgraduate candidates to be delivered from time to time as prescribed by the supervisor(s) and/or Chairman of the Committee for the MA in English Studies. Candidates taking undergraduate courses will also be required to do further guided readings and attend extra tutorials. Assessment will be in the form of written assignments at postgraduate level.

ENGL6003. 8. Guided reading course

A course of individual study with a syllabus drawn up and agreed by the student and supervisor. Student and supervisor will meet regularly for discussion of the readings. Continuous assessment will be in the form of oral presentations or a written paper or papers.

Dissertation

Each student will present a dissertation as part of the fulfilment of the requirements for the MA degree. The dissertation title shall be submitted for approval by April 30 of the academic year for full-time candidates, or April 30 of the second year of study for part-time candidates and the dissertation shall be submitted by August 31 of the academic year for full-time candidates, or August 31 of the second year of study for part-time candidates. The dissertation should be 10,000 to 20,000 words in length and will be undertaken under the direction of a member of staff.

Examinations

Courses are examined by a combination of coursework assessment and a written examination, normally held at the end of the semester, or by coursework assessment alone. Part-time candidates must satisfy the examiners in not less than three courses in the first year before proceeding to the second year. Part-time candidates failing to satisfy the examiners in the first-year examinations may be re-examined before the commencement of the second year of study.

LINGUISTICS

The curriculum is on a part-time basis and normally extends over two years. Applicants shall hold a Bachelor's degree with Second Class First Division Honours Degree or above of this University or another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another university or comparable institution.

The objectives of the programme are:

1. To provide an opportunity for new ideas in linguistic research to be explored and discussed.
2. To provide training at the postgraduate level to students who wish to do independent research in linguistics.
3. To impart up-to-date knowledge in the field of linguistics.

A candidate is required to complete 6 courses (4 core, 2 elective) and a dissertation in the course of two academic years.

Courses

All core courses will be offered in every two-year cycle:

Candidates must take 4 core courses in the first year of study; and at least two elective courses in the second year. Candidates will be required to take 2 core courses in each of the semester of the first year of study. Examinations will normally be held at the end of the semester. Courses are assessed either by examination, or by coursework, or by a combination of examination and coursework. The candidates must satisfy the examiners in all 4 core courses before proceeding to the next year of study.

1. Core Courses

LING7001. Sound and meaning

This course deals with foundational topics in linguistic research, including the identification and classification of speech sounds, the features of connected speech, and impressionistic and instrumental analysis. Emphasis is given to the use of computational techniques in performing phonetic analysis. Students will be given hands-on experience using the Kay Computer Speech Laboratory and other speech analysis programs. Different theories about the relationship between sound and meaning are also discussed in this course.

Assessment: 50% examination, 50% coursework.

LING7002. Theories of grammar

This course offers an in-depth study of recent advances in syntactic research. Theories of language and theories of grammar are first discussed, followed by a consideration of the methods with which syntactic structures and syntactic functions are handled in the major theoretical frameworks. The role of the lexicon in these theories is examined.

Assessment: 30% examination, 70% coursework.

LING7003. Data-driven linguistic analysis

This course offers students training in the latest data-based approaches in linguistic analysis. Different kinds of linguistic data and their theoretical status are first presented, followed by a discussion of the methods currently being used for constructing natural language corpora. Topics including corpus design and annotation, the sampling and retrieval of information from language corpora, and their use in linguistic analysis are discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LING6001. Research methods in linguistics

This course deals with fundamental topics in linguistic research methodology, including Web-based bibliographical research, data collection and elicitation, the organization, analysis and presentation of linguistic data. Both qualitative and quantitative methods will be considered. The course also offers training in interdisciplinary research.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

2. Elective Courses

All the courses on the list of electives are normally offered in every two-year cycle as long as there is sufficient student interest.

LING8001. The history and structure of Cantonese

This course offers a wide-ranging account of Cantonese in all of its major facets: its origins, historical development, phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexis, as well as dialectal and social variation. Recent advances in research on Cantonese will also be discussed and reviewed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

LING8002. Discourse and conversation

This course looks into recent advances in the fields of Discourse Analysis and Conversation Analysis. Students are given hands-on experience in collecting and analysing discursive data. Different approaches to the study of connected speech and texts are presented. The notions of meaning, context, and interpretation, and the inter-relationship between them, are discussed in some detail. Areas of current research such as discourse markers and topic and focus are also presented.

Assessment: 100% coursework

LING8003. Computational lexicography

This course deals with the fundamental concepts and latest developments in Lexicology and lexicography. The course begins with a discussion of conceptual analysis and terminology, followed by a consideration of the similarities and differences in form, content, and function between conventional dictionaries and on-line lexicons. The use of language corpora in the compilation of dictionaries and lexicons is also considered. Emphasis is given to the use of computational techniques in lexicographical research.

Assessment: 50% examination, 50% coursework

LING6010. Readings in linguistics

In this course students are asked to read a selection of classical works and exemplary books and research papers in linguistics. Selections may vary from year to year, but will usually include important works by early masters including Bloomfield, Sapir, and Chao, as well as influential works by current linguists. Students are required to submit written reports and give oral presentations on the readings.

Assessment: 100% coursework

LING8004. Language development and language behavior

The aims of this course are to introduce students to some research methods employed in the study of language acquisition and language behavior, and to assess the significance of research results in these fields. The main topics to be covered include: stages of language development, reading acquisition, second language learning, language and reading disorders, and the influences of writing systems on language processing.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Dissertation

Candidates should write and submit a dissertation during the second year of their studies. A topic should be submitted for approval before October of the second year. On approval of the dissertation topic, a supervisor will be assigned to each candidate. The dissertation, which should normally be between 12,000 and 15,000 words in length, should be submitted by April of the second year of study.

Assessment

Courses are assessed either by coursework, or by examination, or by a combination of coursework and examination as specified in the descriptions of individual courses.

Coursework assessment is based on essays, term papers, projects, oral presentations, quizzes, and other kinds of oral or written work as prescribed by the course instructors. Examinations may be in the form of written examinations, open-book examinations, or take-home examinations.

Candidates will be allowed to proceed to the second year of study provided that they can satisfy the examiners in all core courses in the first year. Examinations will normally be held at the end of the semester in which the courses are taken. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in not more than 2 courses in the first year may be re-assessed. Re-assessment may take the form of re-submitting term papers or projects, or re-sitting examinations, as appropriate, the exact format of re-assessment will be determined in each case by the Board of Examiners. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in the re-assessment may be required to discontinue their studies. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in more than 2 courses in their first year of study may be required to discontinue their studies.

LITERARY AND CULTURAL STUDIES

This programme lasts for two years. It is for part-time students and will normally be mounted every other year.

Applicants will normally hold a good honours degree in an appropriate subject.

Coursework teaching conforms to the undergraduate teaching year. There are two evening sessions of three contact hours per week. Examination of the courses will be by written assignments to be submitted by May 30 of each year. A dissertation must be submitted by September 1 following the second academic year of the course, and its title should be submitted for approval by April 15 of that year.

The MA programme consists of four courses which may vary from time to time. Two of these courses will be taken in the first year of the programme and two in the second year. Currently these courses are as follows:

CLIT7001. 1. Cinema and popular culture

Is cinema an art form? Can 'culture' be 'popular'? The course will discuss the implications of the term 'culture'. Focussing on some of the alternatives to the idea of 'high culture', it will use the cinema as an ambiguous example.

CLIT7002. 2. Postmodernism

Postmodernism is still a controversial subject. The course will attempt not so much to define postmodernism as to evoke and interrogate it, in relation to radical changes in our ideas and experiences of technology, art, everyday life, the politics of representation and globalization.

CLIT7003. 3. Narrative and cultural identity

This course examines some of the ways in which narratives function to construct or contest various forms of cultural identity. Issues addressed include ethnicity and nationality; state formations and colonialism; gender and patriarchy; memory and alternative histories. The narratives will be fictional and non-fictional, ranging across different media (prose, drama, film, poetry).

CLIT7004. 4. Questioning sexual difference

Attention in this course focuses on literary and cultural texts in terms of gender, feminism and sexuality on the assumption that 'masculinity' and 'femininity' are terms that need to be examined critically.

Dissertation

Each student will present a dissertation of 10,000 to 20,000 words as part of the fulfilment of the requirement for the MA degree. The dissertation carries a weighting approximately equivalent to one paper. Successful dissertations, to be lodged in the Library, shall be subject to correction of typographical, grammatical and/or other errors as determined by the examiners.

Coursework Assessment

Coursework assessment based on written assignments will count for 100% of the final grade for each course.