

## **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 Development 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;<sup>1</sup>
- (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 Development Studies, the MA in Chinese Historical Studies, the MA in Comparative Asian Studies, the MA in English Studies and the MA in Linguistics 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
- (b) for 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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).

**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 DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

The curriculum is on a full-time basis and normally extends over one year. 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 complete six courses and a dissertation (i.e. 'GEOG7122 Dissertation in China development 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 requirement for the degree. 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 balance the number of courses to be taken in the first and second semesters. The 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 courses 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 requirements of completing the six courses, a dissertation, and the China field trip, candidates will have the opportunity to take the optional course 'GEOG7119 Internship' as an extra load 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 will 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 Macau. Major theoretical perspectives are introduced to explain the growth dynamics of the Chinese economies and the shifting spatial distribution of economic activities. Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

**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.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

**GEOG7117. Public policies and regional development**

This is 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.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

**GEOG7120. Urban China: cultural basis and contemporary issues**

This course focuses on China's urban history and the Chinese urbanization patterns and policies since the founding of the PRC. The course will introduce the emergence of the city and the development of China's specific urbanism in its history. It will then address the contemporary urban issues 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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

*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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**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.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

**GEOG7114. China's WTO accession and spatial economic transformation**

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. More importantly, the course will try to establish an internship or in-house field studies in mainland investment banks and stock exchange markets. This intake, though being tentative depending on opportunities, could be integrated with the field trip requirement of **MACHDS** programme, and it will be conducted on a voluntary and self-finance basis.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

### **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. Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

### **GEOG7121. The Pearl River Delta: development and interaction with Hong Kong**

With the cross-boundary relocation of Hong Kong manufacturing activities, the PRD has experienced rapid economic growth, industrialization and urbanization since China's Opening and Reform initiated in the late 1970s. The PRD and Hong Kong have become inextricably linked together through the increasing cross-boundary movements of capital, people, goods, information and other activities especially since the 1990s. The objective of this course is to shed light on the significant changes in the PRD and economic restructuring in Hong Kong over the past two decades, as well as the socio-economic interaction between them. It examines the evolution and changing patterns of the regional integration under the unique framework of the "One Country Two Systems" (OCTS) and the newly established "Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement" (CEPA) between the Mainland and Hong Kong. Emphasis is placed on the nature, underlying factors and mechanism that account for the promising development and intensive interplay in the region.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

### **GEOG7123. Directed project in China development studies**

The objective of this course is to give students an opportunity to propose, plan, implement, and then finish a small-scale project on topics relating to China development. Staff may specify topics considered suitable for small-scale investigation. Students are required to submit a written report to document the research process and results. The written report should be typed with double-line spacing on A4 sheets and not exceed 5,000 words in length (excluding figures and tables). Moreover, students are required to give an oral presentation of their work.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

#### *C. Additional Pedagogic Requirements*

### **GEOG7116. China field trip**

A field trip, with linkage to any one of the compulsory or elective courses, will 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 what they have learned from the field trip into their dissertation and directed project.

**GEOG7119. Internship**

This is an optional course to provide 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 will 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 one to two weeks. Internships are subject to availability of places and selection via interview by prospective sponsors. Where appropriate, participants of the internship are encouraged to incorporate what they have learned from their placements into their dissertation and directed project.

---

**GEOG7122. Dissertation in China development 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 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 Faculty of Arts by June 15 of each academic year for examination.

---

**Contemporary China Seminars**

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

---

**CHINESE HISTORICAL STUDIES**

The curriculum is on a part-time basis, and extends over two years. It is normally mounted every other year.

The objective of the programme is to provide students with the requisite knowledge and necessary training to do independent research on Chinese historical and cultural issues. It also caters for the continuing education needs of secondary school teachers in Chinese history and culture.

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

Candidates are expected to take four courses and to write a dissertation. Each course entails one session of two contact hours per week over two semesters, or two sessions of two contact hours per week over one semester. Two courses will be taken in the first year of the programme, and two in the second year. The candidate must satisfy the examiners in all the first year courses before proceeding to the second year of study.

## Courses

### **CHIN6007. Imperial China: Thematic Studies**

This course examines the political development of successive dynasties and their significance in the overall context of Chinese history. Major institutional establishments and cultural achievements of different Chinese historical periods will also be discussed.

Assessment: 100% examination.

---

### **CHIN6008. Republican and Communist China: Thematic Studies**

This course examines the political, social, economic, intellectual and cultural development of China in the twentieth century. Special attention is given to the themes of nationalism, revolution and modernization. It aims to show how present-day China has evolved from its recent past.

Assessment: 100% examination.

---

### **CHIN7001. Materials and Methodology**

This course introduces students to the basic research materials and research methodology (both Chinese and Western) in Chinese historical studies.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **CHIN7002. Chinese Historiography**

This course provides a broad and systematic overview of the founding and development of Chinese historiography. It examines in detail the teachings of leading Chinese historians and historiographers, both ancient and modern.

Assessment: 100% examination.

---

## Assessment

The course CHIN7001 is assessed by coursework, and the other courses are assessed by examination.

Coursework assessment will include written assignments, seminar presentations, and other relevant activities.

Examination will be held at the end of the academic year when the course is taken. Candidates will be allowed to proceed to the second year provided that they satisfy the examiners in all the courses taken in the first 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. If they pass all the re-examinations, they can proceed to the second year. Candidates who fail in the re-examinations may be required to discontinue their studies.

---

## Dissertation

The dissertation should normally be around 15,000 words in English or 30,000 characters in Chinese. The dissertation title shall be submitted for approval by January 2 of the second year of study, and the dissertation shall be submitted by August 31 of the 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 in English linguistics or literature or an equivalent qualification.

The MA in English Studies has a modern focus, enabling students to develop an advanced critical understanding of ideas and concepts, models and paradigms that have significant impact on how we think about and use English today. Students will have the opportunity to read important texts, both literary and non-literary, from different historical moments, from the early years of the twentieth century to the new millennium, and engage in debates and arguments about English in different geographical locations. Modules will also deal with issues of how English is used in everyday life to communicate and persuade, to identify individuals and communities and to transform the ways they see themselves, others, and the world in which they live.

The MA in English Studies provides an advanced academic programme in the linguistics, literature and culture of the English language. It consists of twelve modules and a dissertation. Full-time candidates take six modules per semester. After completing twelve modules, full-time candidates receive supervision for their dissertations. Part-time candidates will normally take four modules per semester over the first three semesters, and receive dissertation support from the beginning of their fourth semester. Each module is typically six weeks in length, with meetings once a week for a three-hour session.

### **ENGL6054. 1. Modern literature and the city (3 credits)**

This module examines the impact and theme of the metropolis in modern writing. Urban experience is central to modernity, and this module explores the city as early twentieth century writers imagined and defined it.

Assessment: 100% coursework

### **ENGL6055. 2. Modernism and its others (3 credits)**

An important aspect of modernism and modern literature is its contact with other peoples and cultures, through imperialism, travel and scholarship. This module looks at specific cases of such interaction, with a concentration on writing marked by transactions between the West and the Orient.

Assessment: 100% coursework

### **ENGL6056. 3. Cultural semiotics (3 credits)**

Cultural semiotics is, as Roland Barthes has said, the study of 'images, gestures, musical sounds, objects, and the complex associations of all of these, which form the content of ritual, convention or public entertainment.' Semiotics has a special relevance for the study of modern mass culture, and the analysis of such popular cultural forms as advertising, journalism, and film.

Assessment: 100% coursework

### **ENGL6066. 4. Research in English Studies (3 credits)**

This module is designed to introduce students to research methodologies relevant to the fields of English literature, sociolinguistics and the study of English in Asia and Hong Kong. The module will combine theoretical approaches with practical guidance in writing dissertations /theses in these areas.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**ENGL6058. 5. Feminism and modernism (3 credits)**

This module re-assesses modernism from the angle of feminism and gender. The module attempts to assess the role of women in modernism and explores the gendering of this literary movement. Students study both modernist and non-modernist texts by women writers.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**ENGL6059. 6. Postmodernism: Theoretical paradigms (3 credits)**

Postmodernism rejects the enlightenment project of the quest for scientific, certain knowledge through experience, logic, classification, and rationality. In this module we will explore theoretical paradigms of postmodernism through a selection of readings by theorists and critics who deal with issues such as capitalism, art, identity, language, the West, and history.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**ENGL6060. 7. English discourse (3 credits)**

This module introduces students to the study of English discourse from a linguistic perspective by examining different notions of text, including spoken and written English discourse, narrative structure, conversation, and grammar and discourse. Central issues include the organization of different kinds of texts, the interaction of discourse and grammar, and how discourse shapes our social lives.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**ENGL6061. 8. Language and the law (3 credits)**

This module introduces law as a domain in which a variety of important linguistic issues can be addressed, including language planning and language policy, discourse analysis and critical linguistics, as well as questions of linguistic semantics and pragmatics. Legal language has also been discussed in the context of literary theory and contemporary debates about postmodernism, rationality, and power.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**ENGL6062. 9. Postmodernist literature (3 credits)**

Postmodernist fiction extends modernist uncertainty, often by assuming that reality, if it exists at all, is unknowable or inaccessible through a language grown detached from it. Such fictions (sometimes called metafiction) investigate instead what worlds can be projected or constructed by texts and language.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**ENGL6063. 10. Postcolonial English (3 credits)**

In recent studies of colonial discourse, the spread of the imperial language to the colonies has been seen as central to colonial rule. As a site of cultural contest, it is also through language that postcolonial studies of resistance have often been focused. Related to this are questions about how the uses of English frame and mediate subject and nation formations, strategies of literary narrative and representation, cultural translation, and knowledge dissemination. Students will read a selection of texts - imaginative literature, essays, theory - which articulate the voices of postcolonial discourse on the cultural significations of English.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**ENGL6064. 11. Language and media (3 credits)**

This module focuses on those characteristics of language in the media that mark it out from language used in other contexts. It looks at the practical and communicational reasons behind some kinds of media language practices, and explores the ways in which language is shaped and manipulated within the media in order to achieve certain kinds of authority and persuasive power.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**ENGL6065. 12. Creative writing/Teaching creativity (3 credits)**

This seminar offers an introduction to the craft of writing. Topics include: dialogue and description; song and refrain; language and theater; literary translation. Sustained genre work and daily writing will be encouraged. Students produce a short portfolio at the end of the module, which will include early work, revisions, and specialization in one of the genres.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**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 January 30 of the academic year for full-time candidates, or January 30 of the second year of study for part-time candidates and the dissertation shall be submitted by June 15 of the academic year for full-time candidates, or June 15 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.

---

**Assessment**

Modules are examined through coursework assessment based on class participation and written assignments. Part-time candidates must satisfy the examiners in not less than eight modules in the first year before proceeding to the second year.

---

**LINGUISTICS**

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.

## *Courses*

Candidates must take 3 core and 3 elective courses during the course of study. Courses are assessed either by examination, or by coursework, or by a combination of examination and coursework. The candidates must pass all the core courses during the period of study.

---

### *1. Core Courses*

#### **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.

---

#### **LING7004. Phonetics and phonology**

This course introduces students to two areas of study of the speech sounds of language, phonetics and phonology. In phonetics, students acquire the knowledge of (i) the articulatory and acoustical properties of the speech sound segments, including consonants, glides, vowels, and diphthongs, and (ii) the prosodic characteristics of the suprasegments, such as duration, pitch and stress, associated with the syllables. Students acquire the skills of (i) IPA transcription and (ii) speech analysis, using instruments.

In phonology, students learn about (i) the patterns of speech sound systems and (ii) the phonological properties and linguistic functions of the sound segments and suprasegments. Students are required to analyze phonological data, solve phonological problems, and formulate phonological rules.

Assessment: 50% examination, 50% coursework.

---

#### **LING7005. Grammar: Theories and applications**

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. It is shown how these contemporary theories find applications in areas such as language learning.

Assessment: 30% examination, 70% coursework.

---

### *2. Elective Courses*

#### **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

**LING6013. 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.

---

**LING6014. 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

---

**LING6015. 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

---

**LING6016. 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

---

**LING6017. 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.

---

**LING6018. Readings in the syntax of language acquisition**

In this course, participants will be assigned fortnightly readings on prominent and relevant works on the syntax of language acquisition. Participants will read, review, and submit their readings for discussions. Topics include: The Theory of first language acquisition, Historical perspectives on second language acquisition research, Current trends in second language acquisition, Trilingualism in second language acquisition. This course is suitable for participants who are writing theses about language acquisition and for those who want further insights on grammar and language learning.

Assessment: 100% coursework



**LING6019. Grammar and interaction**

This course introduces students to the recent advances in the study of the interface between linguistic structure (grammar) and human interaction (spontaneous communication). It focuses on issues of the identity of basic interactional units and how syntax, prosody, semantics and conversational structure shape one another in naturally occurring talk. Topics include: Syntax of sentences in progress, Adverbial clauses in conversation, Repair and syntax, Conversational turns and their extension.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**LING6020. Advanced topics in psycholinguistics**

This course will examine issues concerning how language is acquired and processed in the mind. Advanced research topics to be covered in this course are as follows: brain and language development, language and thought, mental systems for words, word segmentation in Chinese and English, dyslexia, language disorders. There will also be practical laboratory classes.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**LING6021. Language types and universals**

This course introduces linguistic typology as an approach to language structure based inductively on investigation of a wide range of languages. It does not require prior knowledge of many languages, although some knowledge of a language such as German or Japanese is a useful asset. The course includes applications of typology in the field of language acquisition.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**LING6022. Reading development and reading disorders**

This course aims to provide a theoretical understanding of reading development and reading disorders in different writing systems, with a specific focus on alphabetic (English) and logographic (Chinese) writing systems. Through attending the course, students will be able to understand how different cognitive processes contribute to the development of skilled word reading and text comprehension and what problems children may encounter during the course of reading development. Effective treatment and instruction approaches will also be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**Dissertation**

Both full-time and part-time candidates should write and submit a dissertation. A topic should be submitted for approval before February of the academic year for full-time candidates or December of the second year of study for part-time candidates. 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 June 15 of the academic year.

---

**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.

Part-time 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 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 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.