

## **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: Chinese Historical Studies; Chinese Language and Literature; 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; in respect of the course leading to the degree of Master of Arts (in Chinese Language and Literature), a candidate shall hold a Bachelor's degree in Chinese with honors of this University; or have completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Chinese Language Subject Knowledge for Graduate Teachers programme offered by the School of Chinese 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.
- 

<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 and the MA in Chinese Language and Literature).

**MA 4 Length of curriculum**

The curriculum shall extend

- (a) for the MA in Comparative Asian 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 Chinese Historical Studies, the MA in Chinese Language and Literature, the MA in English Studies 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 Assessment**

- (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 or re-submit his work for the failed course for re-assessment 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 or re-submit his work for the failed courses for re-assessment 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 Assessment 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**

### **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 conduct independent research on Chinese historical and cultural issues. It also caters to the continuous 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 six courses and to write a dissertation.

Normally, six courses will be selected from the following list and be taught in each cycle.

#### **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 historical periods will also be discussed.

Assessment: 100% examination

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

This course examines the political, social and economic 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 origins and development of Chinese historiography. It examines in detail the teachings of leading Chinese historians and historiographers, both ancient and modern.

Assessment: 100% examination

---

**CHIN6009. Intellectual Development in Traditional China**

This course examines the dominant intellectual trends in China from the Qin to the High Qing period. Special emphasis will be given to their political, social and philosophical impacts.

Assessment: 100% examination

---

**CHIN6010. Intellectual Development in Twentieth Century China**

This course examines the dominant intellectual trends and issues of twentieth century China, and discusses in detail their influences on various cultural spheres, such as literature, religion and philosophy.

Assessment: 100% examination

---

**CHIN6011. Education and Examination: the Chinese Experience**

This course examines the history of the Chinese education and examination systems, surveys the changing thoughts about the relation of education, examination and talent nurturing, analyses the impacts of education and examination on politics, economics and society, and critically assesses the roles played by Western education and examination models in the modernization of China.

Assessment: 100% examination

---

**CHIN6012. Chinese Migration History: Inland and Overseas**

This course examines the migration history of Chinese from ancient times to early twentieth century. Topics discussed include the backgrounds and motives of the migrants, the routes they took, their destinations, and their adaptations to their new homes. Special attention will be given to the emigrants of Qing China, their continuous conflicts with local residents, and how the problems they faced and the solutions they adopted reflect certain features of Chinese culture.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**CHIN6013. Documentary Research in Chinese Historical Studies**

This course discusses in depth the history and the importance of documentary research in Chinese historical studies. It also looks into various conceptual and practical issues in documentary research, such as the ways of classification and the methods of analysis.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**Chinese Studies Seminars**

Candidates are required to attend a series of seminars given by scholars from Hong Kong, China and overseas on Chinese historical and cultural issues. They have to present findings of their independent research in the seminar series.

---

**Dissertation**

The dissertation should normally be around 20,000-30,000 characters in Chinese or 10,000-15,000 words in English. The dissertation title shall be submitted for approval by December 31 of the second year of study, and the dissertation shall be submitted by August 31 of the second year of study.

---

**Assessments**

Courses are assessed by coursework or by examination as specified in the descriptions of individual courses.

Coursework assessment is based on essays, term papers, projects, tests, or other kinds of oral or written work as prescribed by the course instructors.

Examination is held at the end of the semester when the course is taken, and will be in the form of written examinations, open-book examinations, or take-home examinations.

Candidates must satisfy the examiners in the assessments of all first year courses before proceeding to the second year. Candidates failing to satisfy the examiners in one or more courses may be reassessed before the commencement of the second year of study. Candidates who fail in the reassessments may be required to discontinue their studies.

---

**CHINESE LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE****PURPOSE**

The programme aims to explore topics of interest in the field of Chinese Studies, to familiarize candidates with the latest trends in and the methodological approaches to the study of Chinese Language and Chinese Literature and to prepare them to engage in independent scholarly activities by honing their research and presentation skills.

**PROGRAMME STRUCTURE**

Students in this programme are required to complete 8 courses and a dissertation. Coursework teaching is held from September of the first year until December of the following year. There are usually three sessions of two contact hours per week.

Course offerings fall into 3 broad categories:

## A Chinese Language

### **CHIN6101. Special Topics in Chinese Etymology**

An in-depth study of the essential features of the Chinese characters, the principles underlying their constructions and the process of their evolution.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

### **CHIN6102. Special Topics in Chinese Phonology**

A thorough investigation into the distinctive characteristics of the history of Chinese phonology and a detailed study of “rhyme books” and “rhyme tables”.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

### **CHIN6103. Special Topics in Chinese Textual Interpretation**

A close scrutiny of the philological traditions in classical Chinese studies.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

### **CHIN6104. Special Topics in Ancient Chinese**

The distinguishing features and the development of the ancient Chinese language will be explored in terms of lexicology, semantics, grammar and rhetoric.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

### **CHIN6105. Special Topics in Modern Chinese**

A close examination of the unique features and the development of the modern Chinese language with reference to grammar, rhetoric and semantics.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

### **CHIN6106. Special Topics in Modern Chinese Dialects**

A variety of modern Chinese dialects will be examined according to their phonological, syntactic and lexical characteristics.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

## B Chinese Literature

### **CHIN6201. Special Topics in Classical Poetry**

An in-depth study of Chinese *shi* poetry in its manifold styles and manifestations conducted through an investigation of specimens drawn from the works of celebrated poets in different historical periods.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**CHIN6202. Special Topics in *ci* and *qu* Verse**

An in-depth study of the *ci* and *qu* verses through a detailed analysis of specimens taken from the most representative compositions.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**CHIN6203. Special Topics in Ancient Prose**

Ancient Chinese prose in different forms and styles is examined through a thorough investigation into the distinctive characteristics of representative specimens taken from the works of critically acclaimed writers.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**CHIN6204. Special Topics in Parallel Prose**

A fascinating genre in Chinese writing, parallel prose is studied through an examination of specimen passages drawn from representative works through the ages.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**CHIN6205. Special Topics in Fiction**

Occupying a pivotal position in Chinese literature, fictional works of various forms and styles are examined with reference to representative specimens drawn from the corpus of Chinese fictional writings.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**CHIN6206. Special Topics in *xiqu* (Traditional Chinese Opera)**

The defining characteristics of traditional Chinese opera will be highlighted through a close examination of specimen works created by distinguished “playwrights”.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**CHIN6207. Studies in Modern and Contemporary Writers**

Highly-revered writers of the modern and contemporary periods will be studied with reference to their works. Emphasis will be placed on their contributions to the realm of creative literature.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**CHIN6208. Special Topics in Modern and Contemporary Literature**

Issues of interest on the modern and contemporary literary scenes and the trends of literary thought will be examined with reference to representative works.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**CHIN6209. Studies in Literary Creation**

The mechanics of literary creation will be explored in the light of modern literary theories. Works of great literary worth will be closely examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**CHIN6210. Special Topics in Chinese Literary Criticism**

An in-depth study of the distinctive features of different critical traditions through a detailed examination of the literary theories put forward in different periods.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**C Chinese Culture****CHIN6301. Special Topics in Confucian Classics**

Texts in the Confucian canon will be examined in great detail and their import highlighted.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**CHIN6302. Special Topics in Chinese Thought**

Principles informing different philosophical persuasions in the Chinese tradition will be explored and expounded with reference to representative works.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**CHIN6303. Special Topics in Chinese Thought and Chinese Literature**

The intimate relation between Chinese thought and Chinese literature will be examined with reference to sample literary works.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**CHIN6304. Special Topics in Chinese Culture**

Chinese culture in its myriad forms will be studied, the emphasis being placed on its unique features and its impact on global developments.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**CHIN6305. Special Topics in Chinese Bibliographical and Textual Studies**

Bibliographies and texts of various types will be studied with the use of different methodological approaches.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**CHIN6306. Special Topics in Chinese Rites and Social Etiquette**

The social norms and practices in Chinese society will be described with reference to Confucian values and ideals.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Of these courses, at least 8 will be offered in the programme.

Not all the courses listed above will be offered in a given year.



## Medium of Instruction

Most courses will be conducted in Cantonese, and a number of them will be taught in Putonghua.

---

## Dissertation

In addition to the courses, candidates will be required to complete a dissertation. The dissertation, which should normally be around 30,000 characters in Chinese or 15,000 words in English, should be submitted by the end of June of the second year of the programme. A topic should be submitted for approval 8 months in advance. On approval of the dissertation topic, a supervisor will be assigned to each candidate.

---

## 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 MA in English Studies is available in part-time mode only and takes two years to complete. Candidates will normally hold a good honours Bachelor's degree with a major in English or a closely related subject. Exceptional candidates with equivalent qualifications in other subject areas may be considered.

The MA in English Studies has a cross-cultural focus and this unique programme is designed to take advantage of Hong Kong's historical, geographical and political position. Each course considers different aspects of theories, languages and literatures of cross-cultural exchange especially with respect to East-West and post-colonial situations. The programme includes courses in Cross-cultural Theory, Cultural Semiotics, Travel Writing, World Modernism, The Politics of English, and Postcolonial Representations.

The main objective of this challenging programme in English Studies is to interrogate, challenge and develop theories of language and literature as critical insight into the contemporary world, and to give expression to this understanding in essays and a dissertation. To this end, each course involves an appreciation of relevant theories and armed with these, encourages critical responses to cultural practice in its various representational and linguistic forms, which may include fiction, poetry, film, advertising and travel writing. This involves not only an understanding of how English might be used in different linguistic communities, but also an understanding of important contemporary debates concerning politics, language and culture.

The MA in English Studies consists of six courses, a two-hour final examination and a dissertation. Candidates will take two parallel courses per semester (12 weeks) over the first three semesters, sit a two-hour formal written examination after completion of the third semester and complete a dissertation with the support of a supervisor in the fourth semester. Regular meetings with the supervisor to assess progress on the dissertation are required in the fourth semester. In the first three semesters, classes may be held twice weekly, normally for two hours. Each session may consist of a lecture, workshop, students' presentations, or other form of in-class learning. Student participation in all courses is required. The duration of sessions may vary and some in-class sessions may be partly replaced by online course delivery tools such as WebCT and Pod broadcasts.

**Course offered on the MAES will include six from the following list:**

### **ENGL6072. Introduction to theories of the contemporary**

Love it or hate it, the theory 'revolution' cannot be ignored. It has loosened the grip of empiricist and romantic assumptions about literature and language, and these days some knowledge of theory is expected in postgraduate work in the arts and humanities. This course is designed to give students a grounding in what is loosely called 'theory' or 'critical theory' with a particular emphasis on theories of representation and knowledge in the contexts of modernity/postmodernity. This might include work by, Walter Benjamin, Marshall Berman, Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, Fredric Jameson and others.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**ENGL6073. Introduction to cross-cultural theory**

The theme of cross-cultural study is implicit in all the courses in the MA in English Studies. This foundation course prepares students by introducing them to the work of critics who have tried to formalize cross-cultural relations through particular historical, ethnographic, literary and linguistic studies of cultural interaction. This might include work by Benedict Anderson, Homi Bhabha, Frantz Fanon, Mary Louise Pratt, Edward Said, and others.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**ENGL6056. Cultural semiotics**

This course will examine culture as a complex web of signifying systems and practices. It will look at different concepts of culture and consider their accessibility to semiotic theory and analysis. After an introduction to semiotic terminology, most of the time will be given to the investigation of different spheres of cultural activity, analysing the meanings of images, bodies, objects, spaces, sounds, etc., and the configurations and practices that underpin them. The interdisciplinary nature of cultural semiotics, its relevance to society and its limitations will also be addressed. The course will focus mostly on aspects of contemporary urban culture as it exists in places like Hong Kong, but attention will also be given to cross-cultural comparisons and intercultural relations.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**ENGL6074. Language, nation and identity; with special reference to East and Southeast Asia**

This course looks at the sociology and politics of language in East and SE Asian societies with different historical and socio-political backgrounds. It focuses in particular on the role of language and linguistic standardization within nation building, the question of internal linguistic and ethno-cultural diversity, the legacy of colonialism, and debates about language policy, national and regional identity, and global culture. Issues specific to individual nations will be examined (e.g. China, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam), as well as cross-regional concerns, such as the rise of new diasporic communities in North America, Australia and Europe.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**ENGL6075. The politics of English**

This course examines the contemporary politics of English, looking at debates over local and regional cultural identities, English as the language of modernity and social mobility, English as a "killer language" within linguistic imperialism, cross-cultural discourse and globalization. The historical roots of the rise of English will be traced, and its current world-wide profile analyzed, with special reference to the sharply divergent attitudes found in socio-political debate. Special reference will be made to English in Hong Kong.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**ENGL6076. Orientalism and linguistics**

The importation of Western understandings of language into Asia initiated a major shift in how language was studied and understood. This course takes as its point of departure the debate initiated by the publication of Edward Said's *Orientalism* and looks at the history of linguistics in Asia in the light of concerns more generally discussed in relation to literary and cultural theory. It assesses the role and nature of colonial linguistics, both as a mode of cross-cultural representation and as a form of social engineering within the colonial state. It considers issues of racial and linguistic classification, languages censuses and identity formation within the colonial frame, as well as the responses of Asian linguists and intellectuals to the importation of Western language theory.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**ENGL6077. Discourse, language and culture**

In this course, models of spoken and written discourse from linguistics, the ethnography of speaking and conversational analysis will be introduced, the theoretical assumptions underlying different approaches explained, and various methods of linguistic analysis illustrated, including data transcription. Using these models, issues of communication and culture will be addressed, including language and gender, language and ethnicity, intercultural communication, cross-cultural notions of politeness, and language and power.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**ENGL6078. Asian crossings**

This course focuses on English-language fiction that looks both to Asia and the West. It may read the works of British Asian, Asian American, Canadian Asian ... writers but also those works by Western authors who have been influenced by Asian thought, and by Asian writers who have been influenced by the West, be it in terms of philosophy, religion, or culture.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**ENGL6079. World Modernism**

This course will pursue the idea of a 'world modernism', by looking at selected works of short fiction and poetry from around the world, between (roughly) 1900 and 1940, written in English or translated into English. How differently do these works respond to modernity, and how do they relate to each other – by influence, and shared or contrasted preoccupations or procedures – in the network of 'world modernism'?

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**ENGL6080. Travel writing and culture**

Cross-cultural or intercultural issues are necessarily central to most travel writing. This course explores such issues in a wide range of travel narratives by writers from the medieval period to the present day. The approach is more thematic than historical and themes covered will include travel and imperialism, East-West meetings, mapping self and nation, mobilization of knowledge, postcolonial journeys and travels in globality.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**ENGL6081. Global fictions**

This course will consider global fiction as contemporary stories from around the world, as in 'world literatures', and stories about the world, or 'worlds', as self-conscious and ironic constructions of reality, often multiple and conflicting. As well as examining novels, plays, poetry and cinema from contemporary 'ex-centric' writers, the course will also study Western fictions (sometimes called metafiction) that seek to disturb and shock by leading the reader from one kind of reality or 'world' to another.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**ENGL6055. Modernism and its others**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

**ENGL6083. Post-Colonial representations**

This is an online course that will examine a fundamental issue in post-colonial studies: Representation. This issue will be examined through its various forms, including Gender, Race, Culture, from the perspective of critical, fictional and visual texts.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**ENGL6082. Writing back**

'Writing Back: Post-Colonial Re-writings of the Canon' is a course that examines the strategy employed by some post-colonial literary texts of re-writing 'canonical' literary texts to expose their literary, cultural and ideological assumptions. The course investigates the ways in which such texts resist the imposed cultural assumptions of English literature.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**Final Examination**

In addition to passing all courses, candidates are also required to pass a two-hour written examination after completion of the third semester.

---

**Dissertation**

Each student will present a dissertation as part of the fulfilment of the requirements for the MA degree. The dissertation title must be submitted for approval by February 15th of the second academic year and the dissertation must be submitted by June 15. The dissertation should be 10,000 to 15,000 words in length and should be produced under the direction of a member of staff, who will assist in the formulation of the topic, planning and reviewing drafts.

---

**Assessment**

Each course is examined through coursework assessment based on class participation and written assignments.

A candidate must pass all courses from the first year before proceeding to the second year of studies.

---

**LINGUISTICS**

Applicants shall hold a Bachelor's degree with Honours 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 2 core and 4 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

#### **LING6029. Current Issues in Linguistics**

In this course current issues in different sub-fields of Linguistics are discussed, with an emphasis on new approaches, methodologies and findings. The topics may vary from year to year but will include a selection from such major fields of research as linguistic theory, sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics. Assessment: 100% 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 Acquisition and Developmental Dyslexia**

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

---

**LING6023. Researching Language in Hong Kong**

This course introduces students to contemporary research on languages issues with special reference to the study of language and linguistics in Hong Kong. This course will survey recent research on the languages of the HKSAR, and discuss how language research may be critically read and interpreted, with particular attention to research design and methodology. The central aim of the course is to help students to understand the techniques of quantitative and qualitative research, with case studies relevant to Hong Kong. It will be of special interest to students intending to carry out locally-based research for their dissertation.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**LING6024. Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL)**

This course focuses on the theory and practice of Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL). Areas covered in the course include: a brief review of the history of CALL; latest pedagogical approaches based on CALL (such as the Data-Driven Learning approach); the introduction of various CALL software packages (vocabulary and grammar learning programs, electronic-storybooks, language quizzes and games, etc.); introduction of online language teaching and learning (WebQuest, online communication, WWW resources, etc.); the use of E-dictionaries and thesauruses; and the use of corpus and concordancing programs for language teaching and learning (both monolingual concordancing and English-Chinese parallel concordancing will be introduced). Other related topics such as machine translation, speech recognition and language learning through PDA (Personal Data Assistants) will also be briefly introduced.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**LING6025. Language Planning and Language Management**

Most societies in the world are officially multilingual and face many problems relating to language planning and language management. Language planning typically refers to language policies in such areas as government and education, while language management refers to smaller-scale decisions and applications within institutions and business organizations. The broad aim of this course is to inform students about recent trends in language planning internationally and in Hong Kong and, with reference to such topics as national language traditions, official language policies, and the use of languages in at work.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**LING6026. English and Chinese: Historical and Linguistic Perspectives**

This course introduces students to ways of studying historical change in English and Chinese from a linguistic perspective. Topics include the description and explanation of sound change as well as morphological and syntactic change. Students will be given plenty of opportunities to practice internal and comparative reconstruction, particularly with reference to the Indo-European and Sino-Tibetan language families. Issues in the application of Indo-European-based methodology to the study of Sino-Tibetan will also be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**LING6027. Topics in Functional Linguistics**

This course examines a selection of topics within a field of study which has come to be known as 'functional linguistics'. The topics may vary from year to year, but will include a sample of influential functional approaches to the study of language from the following list: cognitive linguistics, construction grammar, information structure and sentence form, grammaticalization theory, bio-linguistics. Through an in-depth discussion of a small number of studies the selected approaches will be evaluated for their theoretical and methodological contributions to linguistics.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**LING6028. Topics in Language Acquisition**

The course introduces current linguistic approaches to language acquisition. Topics will include the acquisition of Cantonese and English by bilingual children; acquisition of English as second language by Chinese speakers, and vice versa; and the analysis of interlanguage grammar. The course is intended for those with some experience of language teaching.

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.

---

### **Dissertation**

Both full-time and part-time candidates should write and submit a dissertation. A topic should be submitted for approval by May 20 of the academic year for full-time candidates or May 20 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 August 20 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 August 15 following the second academic year of the course, and its title should be submitted for approval by March 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**

This course aims to examine the intricate relation between cinema and popular culture. Through the analysis of examples from the cinema of the Euro-American and Asian traditions, issues in connection with film adaptation, the interfusion of high and low culture, technology and the democratization of culture, film genre, cultural myth and ideology, the global circulation of film, and audience and the cinematic public sphere will be discussed. With the specific emphasis on the multifaceted relation between cinema and popular culture, the course will explore how in some instances popular cinema is always in a dialectical relationship with what we might call “counter/art/independent” cinema while in other occasions, the popular and the independent cannot be easily separated.

---

**CLIT7002. 2. Postmodernism**

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. It teaches foundational texts in postmodernism, contextualizing the history of the debates on the theoretical left from the post-Marxist postmodern turn to the present debates on globalization with reference to local and global phenomena.

---

**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. Particular emphasis will be placed on Marxist, post-colonial, psychoanalytic, and feminist theories and approaches to cultural and textual interpretation. 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**

This course takes a critical look at 'masculinity' and 'femininity' in literary and other cultural texts in terms of gender, feminism and sexuality. Drawing on theorists who have built on Freud's understanding of human sexuality through the Greek myth of Oedipus as well as those who have actively countered Freudian psychoanalysis, this class explores a range of perspectives on culture and sexuality. Topics may include visual pleasure, consumerism, domesticity, class, colonialism, racism, and queer desire.

---

**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.