

## **REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS (MA)**

*(See also General Regulations)*

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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.

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### **MA1 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 courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts (in Chinese Language and Literature), a candidate shall hold a Bachelor's degree in Chinese with honours 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.
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### **MA2 Qualifying examination**

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.

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.

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### **MA3 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.
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<sup>1</sup> In addition to the TOEFL requirement specified in General Regulation G 2, the Faculty also requires a Test of Written English (TWE) score of 4 or above or a Writing score of 25 or above in the internet-based TOEFL (not applicable to the MA in Chinese Historical Studies and the MA in Chinese Language and Literature).

#### **MA4 Length of curriculum**

The curriculum shall extend

- (a) for the MA in Comparative Asian Studies, the MA in Linguistics and the MA in Literary and Cultural Studies over not less than one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study with a minimum of 300 hours of prescribed work; and
  - (b) for the MA in Chinese Historical Studies, the MA in Chinese Language and Literature and the MA in English Studies over not less than two academic years of part-time study with a minimum of 300 hours of prescribed work.
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#### **MA5 Completion of curriculum**

To complete the curriculum, a candidate

- (a) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work;
- (b) where so prescribed in the syllabuses, shall complete and present a satisfactory dissertation or an equivalent requirement on a subject within his approved field of study if required; 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 syllabuses.

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#### **MA6 Dissertation**

Subject to the provisions of Regulation MA 5(b), the title of the dissertation or its equivalent requirement shall be submitted for approval by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses for each field of study; similarly, the dissertation or its equivalent requirement 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 or its equivalent requirement 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.

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#### **MA7 Assessment**

- (a) The assessment for each course shall be as specified in the syllabuses.
- (b) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in not more than two courses in an academic year may be permitted to present himself for re-examination in the failed course(s) on a specified date or re-submit his work for the failed course(s) for re-assessment within a specified period determined by the MA Board of Examiners.
- (c) Subject to the provisions of Regulation MA 5(b), a candidate who has presented a dissertation or an equivalent requirement which is unsatisfactory may be permitted to revise the dissertation or the equivalent requirement and re-present it within a specified period determined by the MA Board of Examiners.
- (d) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in the final examination for the MA in English Studies programme may be permitted to present himself for re-examination on a specified date determined by the MA Board of Examiners.

**MA8 Discontinuation**

A candidate who

- (a) 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 or its equivalent requirement; or
- (b) has failed to satisfy the examiners in a second attempt in any course(s) or examination or in his dissertation or its equivalent requirement; or
- (c) has failed more than two courses in a first attempt in an academic year

may be required to discontinue his studies under the provisions of General Regulation G 12.

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**MA9 Assessment results**

At the conclusion of the examination, and after presentation of the dissertation or an equivalent requirement, 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.

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**MA10 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 MA Board of Examiners. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in the supplementary examination shall be considered as failure at the first attempt.

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**SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF ARTS  
(MA)**

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **Chinese Studies Seminars**

Candidates are required to attend a series of postgraduate seminars in Chinese Studies organized by the School of Chinese.

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### **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.

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## **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

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##### **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

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##### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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## **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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## **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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.

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### **Medium of Instruction**

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

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### **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)

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### **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)

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### **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)

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### **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)

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**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)

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**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)

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**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)

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**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)

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**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)

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### **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)

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### **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)

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### **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)

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### **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)

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## **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)

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## **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.

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## **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)

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## **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.

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## **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 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 will 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.

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

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### **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

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### **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

### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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



## **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

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## **ENGL6083 Post-Colonial representations**

This course 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

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## **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.

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## **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 July 30. 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.

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## **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.

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## **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 engage students with current research in linguistics, with a focus on bilingualism and multilingual studies.
2. To provide training at the postgraduate level to students who wish to do independent research in the field of general linguistics, bilingualism and multilingual studies.
3. To provide training at the postgraduate level to students who wish to engage as professionals in bilingual/multilingual matters.

## **Courses**

Candidates must take the core course and 5 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 the core course during the period of study.

### *1. Core Course*

#### **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

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### *2. Elective Courses*

#### **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.

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#### **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

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#### **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.

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#### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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.

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### **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

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### **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 programmes, 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 programmes 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

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## **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

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## **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

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## **LING6028      Topics in Language Acquisition**

The course introduces current linguistic approaches to language acquisition in bilingual and multilingual contexts. 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 acquisition of a third or additional language by bilinguals. The course is particularly suitable for those with some experience of language teaching.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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## **LING6030      Language Evolution**

The aim of this course is to give students an understanding of the emergence of new languages, such as contact languages, pidgins and creoles. We compare an evolutionary approach to language change with other, more orthodox theories, and evaluate the role of Eurocentric ideologies in the formulation of theoretical systems. We also reflect on the structural and social forces that drive speakers to construct

new grammars through a number of case studies from East, South and Southeast Asia, including Chinese Pidgin English, Sri Lanka Malay and Bazaar Malay.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **LING6031     Multilingualism**

This course provides a broad overview of issues pertinent to multilingualism, with an emphasis on the linguistic, social and cultural diversity of multilingual societies. Theories and approaches to the study of multilingualism will be illustrated by different multilingual settings around the world, with special focus on Hong Kong and Asian contexts. Topics related to the linguistic consequences of multilingualism include diglossia, code-switching and language change. We also look at educational issues created by multilingualism and how they are resolved.

Assessment; 100% coursework.

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### **LING6032     Semantics**

This course introduces students to the linguistic study of meaning. It focuses on the meaning of signs and the relation between signifiers and what they stand for. Topics to be examined include both traditional and current approaches to lexical and sentence meaning. The role of semantics in the language system will be addressed. Central problems and theoretical concepts of Semantics will be discussed, with illustration from a variety of languages.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **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 acoustic 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: 100% coursework.

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### **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.

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### **LING7006     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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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## **LITERARY AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

The programme in Literary and Cultural Studies introduces students to a wide range of theoretical, literary and filmic texts, exploring historical and contemporary issues within modernity and globalization. The programme consists of 7 courses and a dissertation or equivalent project, and will be offered in a full-time (1-year) and part-time (2-year) mode. An interdisciplinary approach will be adopted in the programme; all our courses are largely shaped by critical and cultural theory, and look at texts, for example film and literature, through the perspectives of post-structuralism, deconstruction, psychoanalysis, feminism and Marxist and post-colonial criticism. Teaching will be in English.

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

Coursework teaching conforms to the undergraduate teaching year. For full-time students, a dissertation or its equivalent must be submitted by **August 1** in the academic year of study and its title should be submitted for approval by **March 8** of that year. For part-time students, a dissertation or its equivalent must be submitted by **August 1** in the second academic year of the study, and its title should be submitted for approval by **March 8** of that year.

The semester courses offered by the programme may vary from time to time. For full-time students, one core course and three electives will be taken in the first semester, and three electives will be taken

in the second semester of the programme. For part-time students, one core course and three electives will be taken in the first year of the programme and three electives in the second year. Courses are assessed by 100% coursework. Currently these courses are as follows:

## **CORE COURSE**

### **CLIT7005 Cultures between Art and Industry**

This course aims to examine the changing notion of culture and the paradigmatic shifts in literary and cultural theory over the past few decades. Informed by Western Marxism, structuralism, postmodernism, feminism, postcolonialism and psychoanalysis, it maps out a landscape of critical perspectives on culture within the context of modernity and globalization. It assesses the potentialities and constraints of the cultures of capitalism in a global context. It seeks out innovative ways of articulating the intricate relations among the idea of popularity, counter culture, and the public sphere. With key concepts such as “hegemony” and “structures of feeling,” it examines how culture can be perceived as a lived, active and transformative process. As popular artifacts straddle between art and industry, this course questions the strict division between high and low cultures, center and periphery, the mainstream and the independent/alternative. Drawing on literary and cultural texts produced and circulated within the deterritorialized, global space, this course focuses on the ways in which creativity, acts of resistance, and contestation of opinion enact processes of negotiation, struggle, challenge, and transformation. Topics for discussion may include 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 culture, and the notion of the public sphere.

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## **ELECTIVE COURSES**

### **CLIT7006 Fabrications of Identity**

This course explores the formations of identity in literature, visual culture and theoretical discourse. It examines the politics and ethics of representing identity and difference, especially sexual difference and cultural difference in various local, national, and global settings. Drawing upon theoretical writings of feminism, deconstruction, race studies, performance theory, queer theory, and theory of simulation among others, the course engages literary and visual texts as creative and dialogic acts staging interconnected identities that demand close reading and inter-textual referencing. Topics may include: identity and hegemony; femininities and masculinities in contexts; visual pleasure and spectatorship; masquerade and performance; colonialism and hybridity; the politics of sex and race, and identities in cyberspace. Selective texts will be studied for their imaginative, innovative, and progressive staging of alternatives that speak to and counteract the given identities of monocultures and essentialisms.

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### **CLIT7007 The Art and Politics of Narrative**

If narrative is to do with storytelling, this course focuses on the art and politics of storytelling. What underpins the central focus of the course is the complex relation among representations of identity, ideology, history, and human agency. The course examines a variety of narratives across a range of cultures, genres, and media including poems, short stories, plays and films, and it introduces ways of reading them from theoretical, philosophical and cultural perspectives. Students will learn to read narratives within their historical and cultural context with the help of Marxism, poststructuralism, postcolonialism, psychoanalysis, and feminism. They will study how narratives function to contest, challenge and transcend various forms of cultural identity constructed by nationalism, state ideology, patriarchy, orientalism, occidentalism, capitalism and urbanism. Selections of narratives may range from the realist modes to surrealism and fantasy. With the former, fundamental issues such as mimesis,

reality and alienation effects, as well as the political unconscious will be tackled whereas in the latter, innovative ways of contestation are produced when imagination goes on exile.

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### **CLIT7008      From Colonialism to Globalization**

This course addresses the cultural, intellectual and historical effects of what is arguably the dominant story of the last several hundred years: the emergence of, resistance to and eventual transformation of the modern, global system of colonialism. By the 1930s, 85 percent of the world was at one point a colony or ex-colony; this is to say that the world, from the “local” places of the South and East to the metropolises of the West, has been un-formed and re-formed by the experience and structures of colonialism and its afterlives. This course uncovers some of this history and complexity by examining foundational texts, concepts and ongoing debates within the study of colonialism, decolonization, and what is often thought of as the “new” era of globalization or unimpeded capitalism. Readings can range from classic colonial literature to prototypical postcolonial films, but will also include some of the key statements from the leading critics of colonialism and capitalism. Key terms might include but are not limited to: nationalism, colonial discourse, hegemony, Third World, orientalism, subalternity, hybridity, imperialism, difference, sovereignty, neoliberalism.

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### **CLIT7009      Modernity and its Paths**

The historical and epochal term “modernity” is at once familiar and difficult to pin down. Is this an age of modernity still or postmodernity? And what does this term – or the related quality of “being modern” in some way – mean in Hong Kong, Chinese and global contexts? The elusiveness of the term suggests its critical importance, while also being the result of the range of meanings, contexts and histories attached to it. This course will examine key texts, thinkers, and debates that have theorized, illustrated or challenged the concept and periodization of “modernity.” It will necessarily involve studying related, cognate terms like modernism, “the” modern, postmodernism and modernization. While this course cannot and will not seek to cover these issues in exhaustive detail, it will nonetheless provide a critical introduction to some of the major ideas and debates underlying modernity and its critique, as well as its later, post-World War II developments. Primary texts will be theoretical but also historical, literary and/or cinematic.

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### **CLIT7010      Questioning Sexual Difference**

This course continues the interrogation of gender and sexual difference initiated in *CLIT7006 Fabrications of Identity*. 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 that challenges our commonsense understanding of sex and gender. Topics may include the history of sexuality, sexual revolutions, sexual subcultures, alternative or “dissident” sexualities, socialism and sexuality, feminist critiques of consumerism and domesticity, postmodern bodies, the politics of sexual orientation, transvestitism and transsexuality, queer identity and desire.

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### **CLIT7011      Hong Kong and Beyond**

This course explores Hong Kong culture in various local, national and global contexts in comparison with cities in China and other parts of the world. Through analyzing selected socio-cultural phenomena, literary, filmic and other cultural texts and sites, we examine how the forces of modernization, nationalism, colonialism and globalization have affected the shifts in cultural and political dynamics, and have prompted the changes in the imagination and re-imagination of urban



cultural politics. We may draw from theoretical approaches and critical concepts of various disciplines and persuasions. Topics covered may include the questions of history and agency; the cultural tropes of crisis, hybridity, transition and transgression; personal, collective memories and urban affectivities; critical cultural policy and the politics of urban space; the spectacles of urban renewal, tourism, consumption and popular culture; and, everyday life politics, local cultural resistance and decolonizing alternatives.

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**CLIT7012      Dissertation Seminar**

*Students who opt for dissertation-writing must take this course.*

This seminar supports students as they face the challenges of doing independent literary, film, and cultural studies scholarship as they prepare to write their dissertations. In order to help students in the initial stages of their dissertation research, this course begins with an overview of critical methods currently in use that can be applied to the analysis of a variety of cultural texts. Taking the text, textual strategies, intertextuality, and discourse as starting points, discussion will move from the definition of an object of study to practical critique within the theoretical parameters of literary and cultural studies. The course revolves around student-led presentations, workshops, debates, panel presentations, and lectures arising from issues and concerns generated by the students' research. Students will analyze key concepts arising from their exploration of the scholarly literature on their dissertation topics, compare the strengths and weaknesses of various research methodologies, and embark on the research for their own project.

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**CLIT7013      Postmodernism**

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

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**CLIT7014      Film 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 the interfusion of high and low culture, class structure and the popular arts, authorship, stars, and 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.

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**CLIT7015      Law, Literature and Film**

Law, literature and film come into contact on multiple levels: novels and films about the law influence the way society understands legal institutions and processes, and the law in turn regulates cultural and artistic production. This course introduces graduate students to the burgeoning fields of 'law and literature' studies and 'law and film' studies by exploring the ways in which literary, legal, and filmic discourses intersect. We will juxtapose novels, films, trial transcripts and critical theory in order to re-examine the boundaries between the three disciplines. Texts for discussion to be chosen from works

by Gustave Flaubert, Oscar Wilde, E.M. Forster, Franz Kafka, plus a selection of films by both local and overseas directors.

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### **CLIT7016 Contemporary Chinese Literature and Film**

This course will examine contemporary literary and filmic texts from Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Chinese diaspora. Students will read representative short stories, essays, poetry, critical texts, and view selected films from the Post-Mao period to present. Texts will introduce students to major intellectual currents and literary and film movements of this period, including socialist and critical realism, modernism, postmodernism, and nativism. This course will also explore how forces of colonialism, urbanization, and globalization have drastically changed these Chinese societies. Students are expected to use literary, cultural and various interpretive theories to examine the historical changes taking place in Chinese societies over the past few decades, to understand the social problems and cultural aspirations that the Chinese have been preoccupied with, the patterns of urban life associated with various forms of consumption, and to approach those changes from both a historical and global perspective.

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### **CLIT7017 Utopian and Dystopian Visions in Modern Literature and Film**

Utopia, an ideal city located in a different spatial dimension, has long haunted philosophers bent on defining optimal forms of social organization. At the same time, its counterfactual dimension made it a compelling subject for writers of fiction from the earliest years of the modern period (the Renaissance). With the advent of socioeconomic modernity and scientific progress, it seemed to many that technology held the key to solving the problems of humanity. However, it was precisely in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century that utopian fiction began to take a turn to dystopic visions. The ideal societies of utopian thinkers, based on science, rationalization and uniformity, inspired many writers to frightening representations of a world devoid of humanity. This course will explore some of these representations, questioning the relationship between fiction, political idealism and critical deconstruction by using a selection of film, literature and visual texts. Moving beyond the thematic approach, it will also reflect on the status of fiction as “another order” of reality (Foucault’s heterotopia, Marie-Laure Ryan’s theory of possible worlds).

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### **CLIT7018 Realism/Surrealism**

Through a selection of literary and visual narratives, the course explores the intricate relation between realism and surrealism in culture and the arts. The first portion deals with some fundamental issues in the debates surrounding realism: mimesis, reality and alienation effects as well as the political unconscious. The second half turns to literary and filmic genres which are normally not grouped under the rubric of realism. Focus shifts to the fairy tale, ghost story, mockumentary, quasi-realism, and science fiction film. With this variety of fantastic narratives, the course continues to reflect upon questions of realism raised in the first module by focusing on issues related to defamiliarization, the architectural uncanny, and crisis consciousness.

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### **CLIT7019 World Cinema**

This course explores the meaning of “world cinema” within an increasingly complex circulation of motion pictures as part of a globalized cultural economy. A range of films from around the world serve as cultural artifacts, closely examined to tease out their aesthetic contribution to global film culture. Questions will also be raised regarding the impact of global capitalism, and the effects of cultural hegemony on “independent” national cinemas, “art” cinema, “festival” films, and the transnational cinematic aesthetic that characterizes these developments.

## Dissertation or Equivalent

Students who have received B or above in 4 or more courses, and with the approval by the chairperson of the Committee for the MA in Literary and Cultural Studies, may present a dissertation of 10,000 to 15,000 words as part of the fulfilment of the requirement for the MA degree. 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. Students who opt for dissertation writing must take the elective “CLIT7012 Dissertation Seminar”.

All students have the following options:

- To compile a portfolio of coursework for the MA programme with a statement on how these essays or other assignments contributed to the student’s understanding of literary and cultural studies within the context of the overall programme. Students choosing the Portfolio option are required to revise approximately four individual papers (of 2,500 to 3,000 words each) from several different courses with a mission statement (of 1,000 words) on how these essays contributed to the students’ understanding of a specific issue in the area of literary and cultural studies within the context of the programme (total 10,000 – 12,000 words).
- To conduct an individual project that highlights academic work done within the programme. This may be a creative or a community-based project. The student will provide a written report of around 5,000 words on the relationship between the project and the coursework undertaken for the MA degree.
- Students who opt for portfolio/individual project must take a regular course in lieu of CLIT7012.

For full-time students, the dissertation/portfolio/individual project must be submitted by **August 1** in the academic year of study and its title should be submitted for approval by **March 8** of that year.

For part-time students, the dissertation/portfolio/individual project must be submitted by **August 1** in the second academic year of the study and its title should be submitted for approval by **March 8** of that year.

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