

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

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; English Studies; Linguistics; and Literary and Cultural Studies. These fields of study will not necessarily be offered every year.

MA1 Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Arts, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;¹
 - (b) shall comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (c) shall hold
 - (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University;
 - (ii) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Chinese Language and Literature, a Bachelor's degree with honours with a major in Chinese of this University;
 - (iii) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of English Studies, a Bachelor's degree with honours with a major in English or a closely related subject;
 - (iv) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Linguistics, a Bachelor's degree with honours with a major in Linguistics or a closely related subject; or
 - (v) a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
 - (d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.
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MA2 Qualifying examination

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or their 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) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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¹ In addition to the admission requirement specified in General Regulation G 2, the Faculty also requires:

- (a) TOEFL: 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 Chinese Language and Literature); and
- (b) IELTS: a minimum overall Band of 7 with no subtest lower than 5.5.

MA3 Award of degree

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Arts, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
 - (b) shall comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
 - (c) shall complete the curriculum as prescribed in the syllabuses and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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MA4 Period of study

- (a) The curriculum shall normally extend
 - (i) in the fields of Chinese Historical Studies and Chinese Language and Literature, over two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of four academic years;
 - (ii) in the field of English Studies, over two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of three academic years;
 - (iii) in the field of Linguistics, over one academic year of full-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years; and
 - (iv) in the field of Literary and Cultural Studies, over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study.
 - (b) Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration specified in MA 4(a), unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.
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MA5 Completion of curriculum

To complete the curriculum, candidates

- (a) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (b) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work;
 - (c) shall complete and present a satisfactory capstone experience on a subject within their fields of study;
 - (d) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of assessment as prescribed in the syllabuses; and
 - (e) shall satisfy the examiners in an oral examination if required.
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MA6 Capstone experience

Subject to the provisions of Regulation MA 5(c), the title of the capstone experience (dissertation, portfolio or individual project) shall be submitted for approval by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses for each field of study. Similarly, the capstone experience shall be presented by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses for each field of study. Candidates shall submit a statement that the capstone experience represents their own work (or in the case of conjoint work, a statement countersigned by their co-worker(s), which shows their share of the work) undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

MA7 Assessment

- (a) The assessment for each course shall be as specified in the syllabuses. Only passed courses will earn credits. Grades in all fields of study except Literary and Cultural Studies shall be awarded in accordance with TPG 9(a) of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula. Grades in the field of Literary and Cultural Studies shall be awarded in accordance with TPG 9(b).
 - (b) Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners on the first attempt in not more than two courses, excluding the capstone experience, in an academic year may be permitted to
 - (i) present themselves for re-examination in the failed course(s) on a specified date or re-submit their work for the failed course(s) for re-assessment within a specified period determined by the MA Board of Examiners, but no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
 - (ii) repeat the failed course(s) by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessment requirements; or
 - (iii) for elective courses, take another course in lieu and satisfy the assessment requirements.
 - (c) Subject to the provisions of Regulation MA 5(c), candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory capstone experience may be permitted to revise and re-present the capstone experience within a specified period determined by the MA Board of Examiners.
 - (d) Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in the final review in the field of English Studies may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination on a specified date determined by the MA Board of Examiners, but no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester).
 - (e) There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.
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MA8 Discontinuation

Candidates who

- (a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-examination/re-submission in any written examination or coursework assessment in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners or to repeat the failed course(s); or
- (b) are not permitted to revise and re-present the capstone experience; or
- (c) have failed to satisfy the examiners on second attempt in any coursework assessment, examination, or the capstone experience; or
- (d) have failed more than two courses, excluding the capstone experience, on the first attempt in an academic year; or
- (e) have exceeded the maximum period of registration as specified in MA 4

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

MA9 Assessment results

On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

MA10 Supplementary examination

Candidates who are unable because of illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves for a supplementary examination of the same course. 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 on the first attempt.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

CHINESE HISTORICAL STUDIES

PURPOSE

The MA in Chinese Historical Studies curriculum aims at providing students with the requisite knowledge and training to conduct independent research in Chinese history. It also caters for the continuing education needs of secondary school teachers in Chinese history and culture.

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

The curriculum includes several semester-length courses in Chinese historical materials and methodology, Chinese historiography, and various topics related to the history and culture of imperial, modern and contemporary China.

Students in this curriculum are required to complete eight courses (4 core and 4 elective) 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.

Ten courses will be selected from the following categories and be taught in each cycle.

Core Courses

CHIN6007 Imperial China: Thematic Studies (6 credits)

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% coursework

CHIN6008 Republican and Communist China: Thematic Studies (6 credits)

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% coursework

CHIN6013 Documentary Research in Chinese Historical Studies (6 credits)

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

CHIN7001 Materials and Methodology (6 credits)

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7005 New Approaches to Chinese History (6 credits)

This course attempts to explore the new research approaches and trends in Chinese history studies, especially after the rise of the “China-centered” approach in the US in the 1980s. Apart from assessing the academic achievements of the mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong, East Asia and the West, it also evaluates the roles and limitations of social theories and methods in Chinese historical studies. Scholars with different research interests and expertise will be invited to share their experience with the students in the lectures.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7006 An Introduction to Documentary Sources in Chinese (6 credits)

This course will appeal not only to students majoring in Chinese history but to students looking to incorporate Chinese sources into their research. Both academic knowledge and practical skills are emphasized across the course curriculum. The academic knowledge imparted ranges from explanations of the classification and circulation of traditional Chinese documents to an introduction to the ideas of noted bibliographers, the special features of major overseas Chinese collections and the latest research output on documentary sources in Chinese published by foreign scholars. In addition to demonstrating how to search different kinds of documentary resources, including Internet resources, the practical skills delivered include the ability to read primary historical documents. Students are also presented with case studies elaborating the use of documentary sources in pursuit of historical research.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7007 An Introduction to Archival Sources in Chinese (6 credits)

This course is designed to introduce students to the special features of archival sources in Chinese, and enable them to progress to a higher level of proficiency in undertaking Chinese historical studies. Both academic knowledge and practical use of these sources are emphasized across the course curriculum. The course starts with an introduction to the types, compilation and collection of archival sources in Chinese, and then assesses the experience of noted historians in using archival treasures for academic research and analyzes the construction of pre-modern to contemporary Chinese history through these sources, before concluding with a review of archival research in Hong Kong studies. It will demonstrate how to search the major archival collections deposited in local, national and overseas institutions and guide students in reading primary archival documents. Case studies elaborating the use of these sources in pursuit of historical research will also be provided.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective Courses

A History

CHIN6009 Intellectual Development in Traditional China (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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% coursework

CHIN6012 Chinese Migration History: Inland and Overseas (6 credits)

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

CHIN7002 Chinese Historiography (6 credits)

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

CHIN7008 Intellectual History of Pre-Qin China (6 credits)

This course investigates the origin and development of the pre-Qin Chinese thought. With an understanding of the contents and development of the pre-Qin Chinese thought, students can acquire a solid background in Chinese intellectual history and thereby can decipher the intellectual and cultural foundation behind the historical developments of China thereafter. The bulk of the course will be about the various schools of thought of the Eastern Zhou period. The course will center upon the four major pre-Qin schools of thought: Confucianism, Mohism, Daoism and Legalism. As a supplement, other minor schools of thought will be also be covered.

Assessment: 100% coursework

B Culture

CHIN6301 Special Topics in Confucian Classics (6 credits)

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN6303 Special Topics in Chinese Thought and Chinese Literature (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7009 Traditional Chinese Thought and Its Modern Transformation (6 credits)

This course attempts to explore the characteristics of traditional Chinese thought, and investigate how it underwent a modern transformation in a period of rapid change in the nineteenth century. The course will analyze how the pre-modern Chinese mode of thinking in the political, economic, and social aspects was dominated by Confucianism and later Neo-Confucianism, and how it eventually transformed itself into the modern times under the challenges of Western learning in the late Qing. In addition, the contemporary meanings of those traditional ideas nowadays shared by the Chinese will also be discussed in the lectures.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7010 Modern Chinese Intellectual Trends and Intellectuals (6 credits)

This course explores the intellectual and cultural trends and the thoughts of the leading Chinese intellectuals in twentieth-century China. It is divided into two parts. The first part examines the intellectual fermentation from the late Qing to the Republican periods. The second part analyzes the thoughts of the intellectuals under the domination of Communist ideology from 1949 to the reform era. It covers the establishment of a modern education system modelled upon the West, the decline of traditional Confucian culture, Chinese elite and their thoughts after the May Fourth Movement, and the intellectual development under the Communist rule. Some best-known historical figures will be selected for case study.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Capstone Experience

CHIN7999 Capstone Experience: Dissertation in Chinese Historical Studies (12 credits)

The dissertation should normally be around 20,000-30,000 characters in Chinese or 10,000-15,000 words in English. It should be submitted by the end of June of the second year of study. A topic

should be submitted for approval by the end of June of the first year of study. On approval of the dissertation topic, a supervisor will be assigned to each candidate.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Assessments

Courses are assessed by coursework 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.

Medium of Instruction

Courses will be generally conducted in Cantonese but a number of them may be taught in Putonghua.

CHINESE LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

PURPOSE

The curriculum 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.

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

Students in this curriculum are required to complete 8 courses (4 core and 4 elective) and a dissertation, i.e. to complete 60 credits in 4 consecutive semesters. 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.

Ten courses will be selected from the following categories and be taught in each cycle.

Core Courses

CHIN6101 Special Topics in Chinese Etymology (6 credits)

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

CHIN6203 Special Topics in Ancient Prose (6 credits)

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

CHIN6208 Special Topics in Modern and Contemporary Literature (6 credits)

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

CHIN6301 Special Topics in Confucian Classics (6 credits)

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective Courses

Course offerings fall into 4 broad categories:

A Chinese Language

CHIN6102 Special Topics in Chinese Phonology (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN6104 Special Topics in Ancient Chinese (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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

CHIN6204 Special Topics in Parallel Prose (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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) (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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

CHIN6209 Studies in Literary Creation (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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

CHIN6302 Special Topics in Chinese Thought (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

D Chinese History

CHIN6011 Education and Examination: the Chinese Experience (6 credits)

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% coursework

CHIN7006 An Introduction to Documentary Sources in Chinese (6 credits)

This course will appeal not only to students majoring in Chinese history but to students looking to incorporate Chinese sources into their research. Both academic knowledge and practical skills are emphasized across the course curriculum. The academic knowledge imparted ranges from explanations of the classification and circulation of traditional Chinese documents to an introduction to the ideas of noted bibliographers, the special features of major overseas Chinese collections and the latest research output on documentary sources in Chinese published by foreign scholars. In addition to demonstrating how to search different kinds of documentary resources, including Internet resources, the practical skills delivered include the ability to read primary historical documents. Students are also presented with case studies elaborating the use of documentary sources in pursuit of historical research.

Assessment: 100% examination

CHIN7008 Intellectual History of Pre-Qin China (6 credits)

This course investigates the origin and development of the pre-Qin Chinese thought. With an understanding of the contents and development of the pre-Qin Chinese thought, students can acquire a solid background in Chinese intellectual history and thereby can decipher the intellectual and cultural foundation behind the historical developments of China thereafter. The bulk of the course will be about the various schools of thought of the Eastern Zhou period. The course will center upon the four major pre-Qin schools of thought: Confucianism, Mohism, Daoism and Legalism. As a supplement, other minor schools of thought will be also be covered.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7009 Traditional Chinese Thought and Its Modern Transformation (6 credits)

This course attempts to explore the characteristics of traditional Chinese thought, and investigate how it underwent a modern transformation in a period of rapid change in the nineteenth century. The course will analyze how the pre-modern Chinese mode of thinking in the political, economic, and social aspects was dominated by Confucianism and later Neo-Confucianism, and how it eventually transformed itself into the modern times under the challenges of Western learning in the late Qing. In addition, the contemporary meanings of those traditional ideas nowadays shared by the Chinese will also be discussed in the lectures.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Capstone Experience**CHIN7998 Capstone Experience: Dissertation in Chinese Language and Literature (12 credits)**

In addition to the courses, candidates will be required to complete a dissertation as a capstone experience. The dissertation, which should normally be around 25,000 characters in Chinese or 13,000 words in English, should be submitted by the end of June of the second year of study. A topic should be submitted for approval by the end of June of the first year of study. On approval of the dissertation topic, a supervisor will be assigned to each candidate.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Medium of Instruction

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

ENGLISH STUDIES

The MA in English Studies has a cross-cultural focus and this unique curriculum 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 curriculum 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 final review and a capstone experience in the form of dissertation. Candidates will take two parallel courses per semester (12 weeks) over the first three semesters, prepare examination essays for the final review 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.

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

ENGL6056 Cultural semiotics (6 credits)

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

ENGL6073 Introduction to cross-cultural theory (6 credits)

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

ENGL6075 The politics of English (6 credits)

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

ENGL6079 World Modernism (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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 meta-fictions) that seek to disturb and shock by leading the reader from one kind of reality or 'world' to another.

Assessment: 100% coursework

ENGL6083 Post-Colonial representations (6 credits)

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

ENGL6999 Final Review (6 credits)

In addition to passing all courses, candidates are also required to pass a take-home final examination after completion of the third semester. The written examination requires students to synthesise and

reflect on their learning experiences on the six compulsory courses by preparing an examination essay. They are also required to write an examination essay regarding the dissertation in which they are asked to formulate their ideas, scope their research, identify primary works and define their methodology.

Assessment: 100% coursework

ENGL7999 Capstone Experience: Dissertation (18 credits)

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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Assessment

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

LINGUISTICS

The objectives of the curriculum are:

1. To engage students in the field of linguistics, including its scientific, social and human aspects.
2. To offer postgraduate level education to those who wish to engage as professionals in the study of languages, bilingualism and multilingualism.
3. To train postgraduate students to conduct research on human language, its theories, empirical methods and applications.

Courses

Candidates must take 2 core courses, 5 elective courses and the capstone experience during the course of study. The candidates must pass the core courses during the period of study.

1. Core Courses

LING7004 Phonetics and Phonology (6 credits)

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

LING7005 Grammar: Theories and Applications (6 credits)

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: 100% coursework

2. Elective Courses

LING6013 Data-Driven Linguistic Analysis (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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

LING6017 Language Development and Language Behavior (6 credits)

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

LING6019 Grammar and Interaction (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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) (6 credits)

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

LING6025 Language Planning and Language Management (6 credits)

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

LING6027 Topics in Functional Linguistics (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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

LING6029 Current Issues in Linguistics (6 credits)

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

LING6030 Language Evolution (6 credits)

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

LING6031 Multilingualism (6 credits)

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

LING6032 Semantics (6 credits)

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

LING7006 Readings in Linguistics (6 credits)

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

LING7009 Language Structure for Teaching and Learning Languages (6 credits)

Learning a foreign language can be daunting; teaching a foreign language to bewildered students can be frustrating. This course is for the teacher and learner alike; we will look at general properties of how language is structured -- both generically and through specific examples -- starting with the sounds that make up languages and moving to how those sounds form word, how those words form sentences, and how those sentences are interpreted to have both specific and contextual meanings.

Assessment: 100% coursework

LING7010 Introduction to speech prosody (6 credits)

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of speech prosody, i.e. aspects of speech above vowels and consonants. We will explore topics such as: tone, rhythm, question and emotion with a particular focus on English, Mandarin and Cantonese. The course will consist of lectures and hands on lab experience, with an aim to increase students' theoretical and practical knowledge of prosody and its applications for further research, teaching and beyond.

Pre-requisite: LING7004 Phonetics and Phonology

Assessment: 100% coursework

3. Capstone Experience

LING7999 Capstone Experience: Dissertation (18 credits)

All candidates should write and submit a dissertation. A topic should be submitted for approval by April 1 of the academic year. On approval of the dissertation topic, a supervisor will be assigned to each candidate. The dissertation, which should normally be between 12,000 and 15,000 words in length, should be submitted by August 20 of the academic year.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Assessment

Courses are assessed by 100% coursework. 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.

LITERARY AND CULTURAL STUDIES

The MA in Literary and Cultural Studies (MALCS) introduces students to a wide range of theoretical, literary and filmic texts, exploring historical and contemporary issues within modernity and globalization. The curriculum consists of 7 courses and a capstone experience in the form of a dissertation or an equivalent project, and will be offered in a full-time (1-year) and part-time (2-year) mode. The maximum period of registration for full-time and part-time students is 2 academic years and 3 academic years respectively, which is subject to the approval of the Board of the Faculty on recommendation of the MALCS Programme Chairperson.

An interdisciplinary approach will be adopted in the curriculum. 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.

The objectives of the MA in Literary and Cultural Studies are:

1. To broaden and deepen students' knowledge of cultural theories and different approaches in comparative literature, film and cultural studies.
2. To cultivate critical thinking through engagement with the key debates in literary, film and cultural studies.
3. To encourage appreciation of diverse cultural practices and contexts within a global frame, with emphasis on but not limited to those of Hong Kong, modern Chinese, and Asian culture.
4. To develop skills in critical analysis necessary to carry out independent research in the field of literary, film, and cultural studies.
5. To provide the knowledge and enhance the skills required for advanced degrees and/or enhancement in arts, cultural writing and other creative practices.

Coursework teaching conforms to the undergraduate teaching year. For full-time students, the capstone experience must be completed 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 capstone experience 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 curriculum may vary from time to time. The curriculum objectives and courses are designed to align with the five departmental strategic themes:

Film, Visual and New Media Studies
Literary and Cultural Theory
Gender and Sexuality Studies
Hong Kong and China Studies
Urban, Postcolonial and Global Studies

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 academic year of study. For part-time students, one core course and three electives will be taken in the first year of the study and three electives in the second year. Courses are assessed by 100% coursework. Currently these courses are as follows but not all of them will be offered each year:

CORE COURSE

CLIT7005 Approaches to Literary and Cultural Studies (9 credits)

This course examines critical perspectives in the study of texts and cultures of capitalism in a global context. Approaches informed by Western Marxism, post/structuralism, postmodernism, feminism, postcolonialism, and psychoanalysis are discussed for the different paradigms and implications for literary and cultural studies. Examinations of popular artifacts that straddle between art and industry serve as the basis to interrogate the strict divisions between high/low cultures, center/periphery, and mainstream/ independent/alternative positions. Topics of discussion may include the interfusion of high and low culture, gender and cultural criticism, narrative and film adaptation, film genre and myth/ideology, creativity and resistance, the public sphere, and cultural globalization. Besides regular lectures with discussions and screenings, orientation, consultation sessions, writing workshops, independent library research and departmental seminars also form part of its learning activities.

Assessment: 100% coursework

ELECTIVE COURSES

CLIT7006 Fabrications of Identity (6 credits)

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.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CLIT7007 The Art and Politics of Narrative (6 credits)

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.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CLIT7008 From Colonialism to Globalization (6 credits)

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.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CLIT7009 Modernity and its Paths (6 credits)

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.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CLIT7010 Questioning Sexual Difference (6 credits)

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.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CLIT7011 Hong Kong and Beyond (6 credits)

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.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CLIT7012 Dissertation Seminar (6 credits)

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.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CLIT7013 Postmodernism (6 credits)

This course will explore a wide variety of phenomena characteristic of late 20th century culture. Notions such as fragmentation, irony, pastiche, playfulness, kitsch & camp, etc. will be examined. Making use of the city as guiding image, we will ask how postmodernism inflects questions of the stability of knowledge, the meaning of the subject, and the spectacle of the postmodern world. We will ask questions about the nature of global flow of goods, media, money, design, and concepts as they move between east, west, north, and south. Literature, film, theory, visual arts, architecture, music, TV shows and others will be discussed in the attempt of gaining a decently comprehensive understanding of what has been going on recently in world culture, and of how we are determined by these phenomena. The dynamics of a constantly reshaped connection between knowledge, sensation, language and the social contexts of the body will be closely examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CLIT7014 Film and Popular Culture (6 credits)

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.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CLIT7015 Law, Literature and Film (6 credits)

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.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CLIT7016 Contemporary Chinese Literature and Film (6 credits)

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.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CLIT7017 Utopian and Dystopian Visions in Modern Literature and Film (6 credits)

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 19th and early 20th 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).

Assessment: 100% coursework

CLIT7018 Realism/Surrealism (6 credits)

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.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CLIT7019 World Cinema (6 credits)

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.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CLIT7020 Research Methodology (6 credits)

This course serves as an advanced study of selected traditions within the field of literary and cultural analysis. It offers an in-depth study of particular theories, authors, sub-fields, or problems of literary and cultural analysis. The on-going debates in literary and cultural theory that continue to inform, transform and question the ways we represent, analyze and engage the world we live in will be covered by this elective. Some questions we pose are: What are the limitations in our existing ways of understanding the world we live in? What is the relation between subjectivity, the imaginary, the real, and the material world? We will focus on inquiries dealing with Marxist, formalism, structuralist/post-structuralist, feminist, psychoanalytical, as well as postcolonial theories.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CLIT7999 Capstone Experience: Dissertation (15 credits)

CLIT7998 Capstone Experience: Portfolio/Individual Project (15 credits)

Students who have received B grade or above in 4 or more courses, and with the approval by the MALCS Programme Chairperson, may present a dissertation of 10,000 to 15,000 words as partial fulfilment of the requirements for the MA degree. 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 curriculum. 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 into a final paper of a total of 10,000 to 12,000 words with a mission statement (of 1,000 words) and/or a conclusion (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 curriculum.

- To conduct an individual project to develop and produce an approved creative work under supervision. The student will submit a written report of around 5,000 to 8,000 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.

Dissertation involves 360 hours of learning activities which include research, writing workshops, dissertation writing as well as regular supervision, emails and feedback on draft materials. Portfolio/Individual Project involves 300 hours of learning activities which include mini-lectures, research, library workshop, writing workshops as well as regular supervision, emails and feedback on draft materials.

For full-time students, the capstone experience must be completed 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 capstone experience must be completed 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.

Assessment: 100% coursework
