

## **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;<sup>1</sup>
  - (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 or a closely related subject;
    - (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.
- 

### **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.
- 

<sup>1</sup> 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 in 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.
- 

### **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 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;
    - (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.
- 

### **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.
- 

### **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 shall be awarded in accordance with TPG 9(a) of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula.
  - (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.
- 

## **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

---

##### **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

**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% coursework

---

**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 also be covered.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**CHIN7011 History education: the Chinese Experience (6 credits)**

This course provides a broad and systematic overview of the origins and development of history education from ancient time to the present in China. It examines in detail the changing thoughts about history education and analyses the impacts of history education on different aspects of the society.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**CHIN7012 The Historical Geography of China (6 credits)**

This course is about historical geography of China. Imperial China was a big country with a vast territory. The highly diverse and complex terrain divided the country into many regions with different developments. The terrain characteristics also significantly influenced the decision on the selection of location for the capital and the administrative district planning in all dynasties. Besides, climate change was another major factor affecting agricultural activity, people's livelihood and also political stability. This course will review the influence of geography on political and economic developments in Imperial China. With an understanding of the above contents, students can understand the importance of the geographic factors in Chinese History.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**CHIN7013 Hong Kong since 1842 (6 credits)**

The aim of this course is to equip students with necessary knowledge on, and enhance their ability to pursue research on, the history of Hong Kong from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> to late-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Political, diplomatic, social, cultural, educational and religious issues are introduced, and their interrelated connections discussed, from the historical perspective. Emphasis is placed on training students in the reading of first-hand Chinese historical sources.

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 students 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 and a capstone experience (dissertation), i.e. to complete 60 credits in 4 consecutive semesters. Teaching and assessment are held from September of the first academic year until August of the second academic year. There is one session of two contact hours per week for each course.

13 courses will be selected from the following 3 categories and be taught in each cycle.

### A Chinese Language

#### CHIN6101 Special Topics in Chinese Etymology (6 credits)

The course comprises of three parts. **The first part** is entitled “Chinese paleographic sources and their application”. Paleographic sources presumably refer to the written or engraved texts on different forms of writing materials of the pre-Qin period, including oracle bone scripts, bronze inscriptions, and Chu bamboo manuscripts. At present, paleographic sources have already become the most indispensable research materials in Chinese etymological studies. Thus, on the basis of the fundamental etymological theories, we will provide an in-depth introduction to the recently excavated paleographic sources. In addition, emphasis on the synthesis between excavated sources and transmitted texts is especially placed, in order to examine the methods and theories relating to the

utilization of paleographic sources in the historical and cultural studies of early China. By the end of the course, students will be able to have a profound understanding on the contemporary significance of paleographic sources in scholarly research. **The second part** will introduce to students the essential features of the Chinese characters, the principles underlying their constructions and the process of their evolution. **The third part** focuses on the modern Chinese writing system. Chinese characters constitute the oldest continuously used system of writing in the world. Functional literacy in written Chinese requires a knowledge of between three and four thousand characters. In Old Chinese, most words were monosyllabic and there was a close correspondence between characters and words. In modern Chinese, characters do not necessarily correspond to words; indeed, the majority of Chinese words today consist of two or more characters because of the merging and loss of sounds in the Chinese language over time. Rather, a character almost always corresponds to a single syllable that is also a morpheme. In the earliest Chinese writing its pictographic origins are still quite obvious. Over the course of time, however, the script underwent many changes, the present-day standard scripts (kaishu 楷書) are written in strokes and had lost most of its pictorial quality. This course aims to examine the characteristics of the modern Chinese writing system and its functions in connection with the rapid changing modern world.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

### **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)**

Ancient Chinese is a written form of the classical language used by the Han nationality. This course will provide students with a comprehensive introduction to a broad range of significant topics and issues in the research of ancient Chinese. Research areas highlighted in the course will include Chinese lexicology, semantics, grammar, exegetics, and etymology. Aside from synchronic discussions on the language, this course places particular focus on a diachronic analysis of the language characteristics as revealed by sources from different historical periods, aiming to explore and examine the internal principles and rules governing the language development and changes. After completing this course, students are expected to have profound understanding on the language system of ancient Chinese, enabling them to enhance their capability in reading classical Chinese texts and lay a solid foundation for further research in Chinese philology and linguistics.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

### **CHIN6105 Special Topics in Modern Chinese (6 credits)**

This course introduces and examines three selected special topics in modern Chinese. “Characteristics of Chinese language”, “Ambiguity in modern Chinese”, and “Chinese language, society and culture” will be comprehensively discussed from various perspectives including etymology, grammar, lexicology, pragmatics and rhetoric. Issues like the special features and common features of modern Chinese, the overlapping of linguistic form and meaning, the mutual relationship and interaction

between Chinese language and society/ culture, and the development and usage of modern Chinese are explored and analyzed with relevant examples. After completion of the course, students will have a concrete and in-depth understanding of the characteristics, usage, and social and cultural embodiment of modern Chinese.

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)**

This course mainly introduces classical poetry which based on the study of the prominent Chinese poet Du Fu, 712-770. In the introduction, students learn to distinguish the definition of poetry (*shi*) and song (*ge*). The forms and prosody of ancient-style poetry (*gu-ti shi*) and modern-style poetry (*jin-ti shi*) are also introduced in the course. In the monograph, the course discusses about Du Fu's Confucianism and explains the three respects of Du Fu: Sage of Poetry/ Poet-sage (*shi sheng*), History of Verse/ Poet-historian (*shi shi*), and Sage of Love (*qing sheng*). The course will also analyse the themes, styles, forms and subject-matter of Du Fu's poetry based on Du Fu's master pieces. The last section of the course is about the reception of Du Fu and his poetry from mid-*Tang* to *Qing* and the reinvention of Du Fu in modern times.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

### **CHIN6202 Special Topics in *ci* and *qu* Verse (6 credits)**

The course comprises of two parts. **The first part** of the course provides a general survey of *ci* poetry from its beginning in the Tang period to the Qing period, with special emphasis on origin, generic features, stylistic schools, principal exponents, and historical development. The diverse forms and styles are examined through discussion of selected works taken from the most representative as well as best known authors. As a postgraduate level course, students will be introduced to key contributions to the academic study of *ci* and be expected to become familiar with scholarly debates in *ci* research during class discussion and be able to refer to them in the completion of assessment exercises. **The second part** of this course focuses on the rich theatrical traditions flourishing during the Yuan, Ming, and Qing periods and the methods used to approach these traditions. It helps students use the major collections of the Yuan variety plays and Southern plays, the Ming and Qing *chuanqi* plays, theories of theatrics, and records of the Qing regional popular theater. It also helps students develop skills of interpreting the best-known works and engage in current scholarly discussions, with an aim of helping them develop their own research interests that can enrich these discussions.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

### **CHIN6203 Special Topics in Ancient Prose (6 credits)**

The course comprises two parts. **The first part** traces the development of prose in ancient China and selects famous pieces from *Zuo Zhuan*, *Guo Yu*, *Zhanguo Ce*, *Shiji*, etc. for detailed analysis and discussion. **The second part** focuses on a critical appreciation and thorough discussion of

representative pieces of prose by Han Yu, one of the most famous and important prose writers in the Tang dynasty.

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

---

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

This course will introduce and examine special topics in modern and contemporary literature in Chinese with emphasis on historical and cultural context, artistic achievement, as well as the influence of western thoughts. Selected works will be analyzed and commented with reference to literary theories and background contexts. A series of topics including the complicated relationship between Chinese literature and politics in the twentieth century, the evolution of realism and development of modernism, Romanticism, New Historicism etc., will be discussed. The objectives of this course are to initiate critical discussion of writers, works and literature phenomena of modern and contemporary literature that arouse students’ attention to the particularities and development of Chinese literature, and to develop students’ analyzing ability.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**CHIN6209 Studies in Literary Creation (6 credits)**

This course aims to cultivate students to produce original works of modern poem and prose. The mechanics of literary creation will be explored in the light of modern literary theories. This course consists of two parts: (1) Introduction to the development of Chinese contemporary poems, the language and rhythm of modern poem, the writing skill of modern poem including metaphor, image, symbol, irony and dramatization. (2) Introduction to the development of Chinese contemporary prose, the artistic features of prose, the writing skill of narrative prose, lyric prose and argumentative prose. Selected works of representative contemporary poets and prose writers 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

---

## CHIN7101 Literature from Hong Kong and Taiwan (6 credits)

This course will introduce and examine the 20<sup>th</sup> century Hong Kong and Taiwanese literature through representative writers and their works in various forms like novels, poetry and critical texts, with particular discussions on the social, cultural and historical issues arising from modern Hong Kong and Taiwan contexts, e.g. the quest for a Hong Kong identity, the urban imagination of Hong Kong, the handover of 1997, the major intellectual currents and literary movements/debates including realism, modernism, nativism, the debates surrounding Taiwanese identity and the periodization of Taiwanese history, and the notions of postcolonialism and postmodernism. Selected works will be analyzed and commented with reference to literary theories and background contexts, and investigated through the critical engagement of recent academic scholarship. The issues from literary communication, sinophone studies, minor literature in relation to the context of Hong Kong and Taiwanese literature will also be explored.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

## C Chinese Culture

### 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

---

### CHIN6301 Special Topics in Confucian Classics (6 credits)

The course comprises of three parts. **The first part** focuses on the *Book of Documents, Shujing*, a collection of rhetorical prose attributed to figures of ancient China and served as the foundation of Chinese political philosophy for over 2,000 years. A new idea of supreme deity arose during the Zhou Period called *Tian* (Heaven 天). *Tian* was a comprehensive, universal, and impersonal force. *Tian* was believed to get involved in human affairs and examine human conduct. It was not capricious but moral and righteousness and expected humans to live by these principles of virtue, *de* 德. To justify the overthrow of the Shang ruler and their right to govern, the founders of the Zhou dynasty developed and enhanced this belief, which held that *Tian* determined who had the right to rule according to *de*. A failure to fulfill *de* caused the Shang to forfeit their right to rule, which was given to the founders of Zhou because of their *de*. An important practice that developed to regulate human behaviors was *li* (rites or rituals 禮). *Li* was intended to establish a harmonious relationship between the cosmic and social hierarchies. This part focuses on examining the political philosophy originated in this period which had formulated the key belief that became fundamental to Chinese thought until nowadays. **The second part** thoroughly examines the intense debates over the authenticity of *Zuo Zhuan* with comparison of *Guo Yu*, another ancient book of the Spring and Autumn Period. The authorship, style and nature of *Zuo Zhuan* will also be discussed. **The third part** focuses on *Lun Yu* or the *Analects*, widely considered as the most reliable record of the Confucius' conversations with his contemporaries in the past. Its authenticity was yet called into question by some scholars of the Qing Dynasty. The documentation issues of the *Analects* will be examined in depth. The image of the Confucius as well as his ideas will also be discussed through analysis of selected passages from the *Analects*.

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)**

The course comprises of two parts. **The first part:** This part will examine and analyse traditional Chinese culture in different dimensions, including political, religious, ethnic and social etc. Autocratic politics stood firm in China soil after unity of dynastic China in 221 BC, though most of the emperors in dynastic history seemed to approach Confucius theory but they were truth followers of the legal school instead. The aim of lecture is to explore why autocracy appeared to become a long term political policy in China. In the field of religion, Chinese folk beliefs are different from religious beliefs of western world nowadays. Personification of folk gods and goddess may be related to political influences and its reasons will be also tackled in lecture. With no doubt, China's continuous communication with ethnic minorities such as the Hun, Turk, Tubo, Uyghur, Jurchen, Mongolian, etc. and the interchange of material civilization as well as cultural is an interesting topic to investigate. On the other hand, gender equality was supposed to be more popular among ethnic minorities than the Han society, female status of the nomads might have affected ancient China in some decades, it was said that female power rose to its peak when Empress Wu declared emperor during seventieth century. The purpose of female status and chastity concept review is to define to what extend orthodox theories influence the Chinese. Obviously, the wide spread of homosexuality in Ming-Qing China reflected at certain extend, the actual effect of Confucianism in dynastic history of China. **The second part:** Chinese is one of the world's oldest cultural systems, intricately woven by political, diplomatic, economic and social histories, with multiple layers of their subtexts and interpretations. Observing the customary practices by common people yields more perspective. This part of the course is an in-depth study in Chinese culture by looking into humble and tangible topics such as practices in cuisine, imagery, hunting, inheritance and various other customs. These topics map the transformation of traditional and mainstream Chinese culture in face of challenges from Chinese regional, foreign and modern cultures.

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

---

### **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 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

---

### **CHIN7011      History Education: the Chinese Experience (6 credits)**

This course provides a broad and systematic overview of the origins and development of history education from ancient time to the present in China. It examines in detail the changing thoughts about history education and analyses the impacts of history education on different aspects of the society.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

### **Capstone Experience**

#### **CHIN7997      Capstone Experience: Seminars and Dissertation in Chinese Language and Literature (12 credits)**

Students are required to attend seminars and complete a dissertation as a capstone experience.

- (a) Seminars: The dissertation writing guide including research methodology and skills will be introduced. Students will present their writing plans individually in oral and written form for discussions and interchange of views and ideas with their peers and teachers.
- (b) Dissertation: In their second year of study, each student will be assigned a dissertation adviser in October and then has to submit a dissertation topic for approval in April. The dissertation, which should normally be around 20,000 characters in Chinese or 15,000 words in English, should be submitted by August 1 of the second year of study. For students who have got a pass in their seminar presentations, their dissertations can be a minimum of 15,000 characters in Chinese or 12,000 words in English.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

### **Medium of Instruction**

Courses will be conducted in Cantonese or 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, post-colonial and global situations.

The main objective of the 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 oral and written assignments, culminating in a capstone experience. To this end, each course involves an appreciation of relevant theories and approaches and armed with these, encourages critical responses to cultural practice in its various representational and linguistic forms, which may include fiction, poetry, film, advertising, travel writing, spoken, written and multimodal discourse. 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 culture, politics, ideology and language.

The MA in English Studies consists of two introductory courses (9 credits each), four seminar courses (6 credits each), and a capstone experience (18 credits) in the form of a final research project and a conference paper. The MA can be studied in full-time or in part-time mode. Part-time candidates will take two parallel courses per semester (12 weeks) over the first three semesters, and complete a final capstone course in the fourth semester. Full-time candidates will take four courses in the first semester, and an additional two courses in the second semester, along with the capstone experience. Four seminars with a literary focus and four with a linguistics focus will be offered every year. While part-time students follow a fixed curriculum with half of their courses in Literature and half in Linguistics, full-time students may choose to take all their seminar courses in one stream if they wish to specialise in either Linguistics or Literature. With at least three courses and the capstone successfully completed in one stream, students' transcripts will indicate the respective specialisation ('MA in English Studies [Literature]', 'MA in English Studies [Linguistics]'). The option to specialise is not offered to part-time students whose transcript will read 'MA in English Studies'. Courses for part-time students will be offered in the evening, while full-time students will take courses during the day and in the evenings. Each session may consist of a lecture, workshop, students' presentations, or other form of in-class learning. Student participation in all courses is required.

Not all elective courses listed below will necessarily be offered each year.

---

### *1. Core Courses*

#### **ENGL6073 Introduction to Literature and Cross-cultural Theory (9 credits)**

The theme of cross-cultural study is implicit in all of the courses in the MA in English Studies. This foundation course prepares students by introducing them to the historical development of literature by studying different authors and genres within diverse cultural contexts. Traditional, western literature will be read alongside other 'national' and world literatures from post-colonial and global contexts to examine the sense of interconnectedness between various genres, movements and time periods. The primary texts will be supported by 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

---



## **ENGL7101 Introduction to Language and Communication (9 credits)**

This course introduces students to core research areas within the field of language and communication, with a focus on theories, approaches and applications drawn from sociolinguistics. Contemporary issues such as globalisation, language spread, and bi/multilingualism will be discussed. Key themes addressed in the course include: culture, ideology, identity, language policy, varieties of English, World Englishes and global Englishes. To facilitate introduction to these themes, the course will present students with basic knowledge in linguistics and sociolinguistic theory and approaches, as well as empirical examples drawn from the literature. Based on these insights, students will regularly be encouraged to bring along their own examples of linguistic data, to discuss and interpret in class.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

## **2. Elective Courses**

### **Linguistics**

#### **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, 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

---

#### **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

---

#### **ENGL7102 Global Englishes (6 credits)**

At the turn of the century, the globalisation of world trade and culture has led to the global spread of English. While the social, political and economic complexities brought about by globalisation have established the contemporary place of English as the world’s primary international language, there are some crucial and controversial issues that need critical analysis, particularly as regards the persistent exonormative model of Standard English, non-standard variations in New Englishes or postcolonial Englishes, the emergent variant forms of ‘glocal’ Englishes in the so-called Expanding Circle, i.e. what is commonly referred to as English as a Lingua Franca (EFL), and ‘Translingua Franca English’ (TFE) as the fluid social processes that includes all global uses of English. Students in this course will critically examine this polycentric development of English today and the current academic debate on the ideology of Standard English, the discourses of postcolonialism, the relationship between

language and power, the attitudes to and the linguistic rights of non-native speakers of English, and the future of English.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

### **ENGL7103 New Media and Discourse (6 credits)**

This course offers a contemporary approach to key concepts in mediated communication within the field of language and new media, with a focus on media as language use. With a strong emphasis on the anthropological and social dimensions of mass communication, the course encourages students to consider the ways in which media discourse is different from everyday face-to-face interactions and critically reflect upon the ways in which media technologies extend human language capabilities. Key themes addressed in the course include: the discursive practices and performances that are taking place within the new media environments, the uneven distribution of technology across the globe, ideologies and semiotic resources deployed in (re)producing certain discourses by different social groups, the exploration of the ways in which new media are localised into everyday practices and performances of social actors in their diverse geographical localities. To facilitate introduction to these themes, the course will present students with a series of theories and approaches drawn from language and media studies. So as to also develop their analytical skills, students will be encouraged to carry out their own investigations, i.e. to complete a personal media and communications audit, then to reflect on what new media mean for them and for accomplishing artful/playful discursive practices and performances.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

## **Literature**

### **ENGL6079 World Modernism (6 credits)**

‘Modernism’, as a movement in literature and the other arts, is traditionally studied in national or regional contexts. This course will pursue the idea of a “world modernism”, by looking at selected works of fiction and visual culture from around the world, between (roughly) 1900 and 1950, 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)**

Since its inception, the novel has maintained a close relationship with nation. A cohesive time-space can be identified where the narrator's point of view and that of an implied reader coincide with the interests of an identifiable country or region. But after cross-cultural journeys and globalization, how strong is the idea of the nation in the public imagination? To what extent is the idea of national

belonging weakened, and what kind of transnational affinities are being engendered? Where are the power lines of this transnationalism? Should we be worried about losing the protection of the nation state? What new possibilities arise for cultural production?

This course explores some of these questions through fictions that emphasise the transnational, moving beyond socio-geographical boundaries of nation. While we will consider how postcolonial, postmodern and world literatures might give rise to global fictions, we will also see if there is evidence of a newly emerging cultural form.

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

---

### **3. Capstone Experience**

#### **ENGL7998 Capstone Experience: Final Research Project (18 credits)**

Each student will develop and present a final research project on a literary or linguistic topic as part of the fulfilment of the requirements for the MA degree. Students will have the opportunity to pursue their own research interests under the supervision of a teacher who will utilise class-time to a) provide in-depth instructions surrounding the capstone experience; b) provide core knowledge surrounding the production of the final research project (e.g., templates for writing extended essays, guidelines on formulating aims and research questions); and c) provide individual guidance to students so as to help them to formulate a topic and scope the research, to suggest reading, and to review plans and draft chapters. Class time will thus consist of discussions on research methods, theoretical considerations, and presentation skills. The project proposal must be submitted for approval by the beginning of the second semester for full-time MA students, and by the beginning of the fourth semester for part-time MA students. Students are expected to spend much of their time on independent research and writing. The Capstone Experience will culminate in three major research outputs: 1) an extended essay of ca. 2,000 words on their project; 2) a creative output on their project (e.g., poster, film); and 3) the presentation of this creative output at an MAES conference. Full-time students who select to specialise in either linguistics or literature, need to complete the capstone final project in their respective area of specialisation.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

#### **Assessment**

Each course is examined through coursework assessment based on class participation, presentations 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 aims at introducing students to the basic concepts in morphology and syntax. Exercises accompany the topics introduced. Example analyses are drawn from various languages. The following topics in morphology and syntax will be covered: wordhood, word classes, constituency, phrase structure, grammatical relations, semantic roles, and sentence types. The course provides a grounding in grammatical concepts useful for further study in grammatical theory, typology and other areas of linguistics.

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

### **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

---

### **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)**

This course will provide a general introduction to evolutionary linguistics. Following an interdisciplinary perspective, the course will introduce fundamental concepts of some relevant disciplines that could shed light on language origin and evolution, including archaeology and anthropology, comparative studies of humans and other animals, genetics, neuro- and psycho-linguistics, and computer simulation.

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, covering Hong Kong and Asia among other contexts. Topics related to the linguistic consequences of multilingualism include code-switching, language change, as well as language contact and creolization. We also look at educational issues involving 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 read a selection of current works in an area of interest to the student under direction from a supervisor. The course is suitable for those who have a specific research area which they wish to explore. Students are expected to write critical reviews of works they have read, and/or to compile a literature review. The work is intended to prepare the ground for a dissertation in the chosen area.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

### **LING7007 The Sound Patterns of Language: Phonological Theory and Analysis (6 credits)**

Why is English so hard for a Cantonese speaker to pronounce? The sounds of each language are organized by different principles: English allows consonant clusters at word edges (as in strengths) while Cantonese does not. Each human language has its own phonology, a set of principles for organizing its sounds into a unique signature for that language. This course addresses phonological systems from a variety of perspectives. Objectives include teaching the following:

- a. an overview of common types of phonological phenomena;
- b. analytic tools for determining the phonological patterns found in a given language;
- c. theoretical grounding in order to interpret the results of an analysis;
- d. argumentation logic to evaluate the validity of analyses;
- e. presentation skills for both oral and written professional presentations.

Thus, the primary focus is on analytic, argumentation, and presentation skills, set against the backdrop of phonological systems.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

### **LING7008 Language and Speech Sounds: Acoustic and Articulatory Phonetics (6 credits)**

When speaking, people tend not to actively think about the sounds that make up their language. The task of listening to and producing speech sounds seems so effortless and automatic for native speakers of a language that it can often be one of the most challenging obstacles for the non-native learner to overcome. Contemporary inquiry into the nature of human speech sounds, however, reveals a complex system of phonetic knowledge that language users must use to navigate their linguistic environment. This course introduces students to the nature of speech production and perception and to the properties of the acoustic signal that is transmitted from speaker to listener. Goals of this course are:

- a. To understand fundamental principles of phonetic theory and phonetic representation. We will look at current theories of the complicated tasks accomplished by speakers and listeners and arrive at a representation of speech sounds in terms of their articulatory, acoustic and perceptual properties.
- b. To introduce students to techniques of phonetic experimentation and modeling. Small-scale experiments will provide training in physiologic measurement, acoustic analysis, and perceptual-data analysis, and reinforce theoretical principles by serving as empirical tests of claims made by such theories.

- c. To reflect on the relationship between the physical instantiation of speech and its representation in the mind. Our exploration of this issue will serve as a bridge between phonetics and phonology.
- d. To provide practical experience in hearing, producing, and transcribing sounds of the world's languages. Such experience can prepare students for field research on poorly documented or under-described languages or for work involving populations who speak different languages.

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 1 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 1** 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 1** of that year.

The semester courses offered by the curriculum may vary from time to time. Students are encouraged to pursue either a LITERARY AND CULTURAL STUDIES emphasis, or a FILM/SCREEN STUDIES emphasis within the Programme.

LITERARY AND CULTURAL STUDIES emphasis elective courses:

Students are encouraged to select any 2-3 from the following: CLIT7007, CLIT7008, CLIT7009, CLIT7015, CLIT7016, CLIT7017, CLIT7020.

FILM/SCREEN STUDIES emphasis elective courses: Students are encouraged to select any 2-3 from the following: CLIT7014, CLIT7015, CLIT7016, CLIT7017, CLIT7019, CLIT7020, CLIT7021, CLIT7022.

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 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.

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 course will look at the different ways in which modernism was defined, from the late 19<sup>th</sup> to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, in Europe, America, China and Japan. The purpose of the course is to reflect on the fact that modernism, as defined by its leading proponents, was quite often less an assertive, iconoclastic, avant-garde attack on tradition, than an ambiguous reflection on the place of literature and film in a more democratic, disenchanted age. Drawing on theoretical and critical texts by philosophers and scholars which highlight the ambiguity or dialectics of modernity, it will nonetheless mainly seek to engage with the configuration of modernity in individual fictional works and films. How is modernism related to the autonomy of literature, the emancipation of the individual, visuality, and memory? Does modernity signify a utopian liberation from all norms or does it recreate new forms of submission and hierarchy? How has the modern apparatus of cinema shaped ways of looking and engaging time and space, besides illuminating the shocks and of modern life?

At the same time as it seeks to deconstruct the simple opposition between tradition and modernity, the course will also question the meaning of literary and film modernism in the Chinese and Japanese context as an “iconoclastic” break with tradition in favor of “Westernization”, including localizing Western forms. Asian modernists demonstrate a similarly complex understanding of literature’s and film’s role in modern times. The difficulties in defining a “modernist canon” may in this sense reflect inseparable aspirations to the new and nostalgia for the old.

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 short stories, essays, poetry, critical texts, and view selected films from the Post-Mao period to the present, and from contemporary Taiwan and Hong Kong. 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. Literary fiction and essays, as well as documentary and feature films will be referred to in order to explore the representation of history and violence, their relationship with collective memory and place in mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. The course will also question the notions of post-socialism and postmodernism in the context of the accelerating socioeconomic reforms of the 1990s and 2000s and engage discussion with frameworks such as Sinophone studies, minor literature, and the concept of ‘Chineseness’ today.

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. One part of the course explores some fundamental issues in the debates surrounding realism: mimesis, documentarism, reality and alienation effects. The other part turns to literary and filmic genres which are normally not grouped under the rubric of realism. Focus shifts to the fairy tale, fantastic literature, ghost story, docu-drama, mockumentary, and science fiction film. With these two parts, the course seeks to reflect upon the ways in which realist and surrealistic narratives relate to actuality, and upon issues related to defamiliarization, madness and death, 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 that serve as cultural artifacts will be 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 aesthetics that characterizes these developments. Selected films from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries are studied with a view to historicize world cinema, attend to cultural specificities, examine the notion of film authorship, and explore relevant theories and trends in cinema studies.

Assessment: 100% coursework

### **CLIT7020 Introduction to Research Methods (6 credits)**

This is a course to introduce master-level students to theory-informed research methods in literary, film, and cultural studies. It gives a survey of the key concepts, methods, debates, and authors as they pertain to the research and analysis of texts, contexts, and world. Questions for inquiry include: How do scholars engage theory and method to examine narratives, discourse, form, genre, ideology, subjectivity, and imaginary? How do analyses of texts, practices, reception, production contexts engage cultural economy, power, politics, and/or historiography? Research methods covered in the course include: narrative analysis, formal analysis, authorship studies, genre studies, discourse analysis, ideological analysis, and ecocritical analysis.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

### **CLIT7021 Approaches to Cinematic Arts (6 credits)**

This course introduces theoretical and critical approaches to the study of film in an international and interdisciplinary frame. It acquaints students with selections from classical, contemporary, and postcolonial theories of film and cinema, with emphasis on the revisions and interventions informed by feminisms, Third Cinema, postcolonialism, postmodernism, queer theory, and digital culture. Beginning with readings on visuality and critical visions, the course introduces different theories and positions on the questions of medium specificity, film's relation with the other parts, concepts used in film criticism, theories and practices of cinema, and cinematic arts in digital humanities.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

### **CLIT7022 Screen Documentaries (6 credits)**

The politics, modes, ethics, and practices of screen documentaries will be introduced in international and interdisciplinary frames. Beginning with readings on non-fictional storytelling, authenticity and authority, ethics and politics of documentary on screen, students will examine the role of the documentarian, the documentary subjects, issues of gender and ethnicity, globalization, and modes of documentary including observational, expository, participatory, poetic, reflective, performative, and hybrid approaches. Lectures, viewings, and discussions will emphasize intellectual and critical understanding of documentary film and video texts, as well as their historical and cultural contexts. Students will do analytical and reflective writing, undertake research and participatory observations, and investigate documentary practices and ethics. Students will complete a still photo-text project for the mid-term and a group digital documentary with their own equipment (5-7 minutes) for the final project. Students will write commentaries and do reflective writing on the group project.

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". Students who opt for portfolio and individual project must attend special sessions and/or workshops.

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 1** 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 1** of that year.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---