

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF ARTS

Master of Arts in English Studies

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The MA in English Studies curriculum offers candidates the opportunity to explore latest developments in literary, cultural and linguistic theory. The curriculum has a cross-cultural focus designed to take advantage of Hong Kong's historical, geographical and political position. Each course considers different theories, languages and literatures of cross-cultural exchange especially with respect to East-West and post-colonial thinking. The curriculum consists of six compulsory courses, a final review and a dissertation (capstone experience). A range of 120-180 hours of student learning activities (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activities) is the norm of a 6-credit course. The curriculum has a total study load of 1,200 hours, of which a minimum of 150 are contact hours.

1. Compulsory courses (6 credits)

These courses emphasize intellectual enquiry into novel cross-cultural situations where English language or literature are concerned. Each course involves an appreciation of relevant theories and armed with these, encourages critical responses to cultural practice in its various representational and linguistic forms, which may include fiction, poetry, film, advertising and travel writing. Contact hours are normally two per week, consisting of a combination of lectures, seminars, group discussion, presentations and other in-class activities including quizzes and tests. Assessment is by 100% coursework (including 2 written assignments covering tutorial responses and reflections, critical essays, creative non-fiction, research papers, in addition to weekly or bi-weekly exercises) with a total written output of approximately 4,000 words.

2. Final Review (6 Credits)

The final review requires students to synthesise and reflect on their learning experiences on the six compulsory courses. They need to revise and prepare an exam essay of about 800-1000 words. In addition, they are also asked to formulate their ideas for their dissertation, scoping their research, identifying primary works and defining their methodology. They must write an exam response to this in 800-1000 words.

3. Capstone Experience: Dissertation (18 credits)

The dissertation, to be completed during the fourth semester and also through the summer (deadline end July), provides students with an opportunity to pursue their own research interests under the supervision of a teacher who helps them to formulate a topic, scope the research, suggest reading and review plans and draft chapters. Students are expected to spend much of their time on independent research and writing. Contact hours are minimal of 6 to 24 hours. Assessment is by a dissertation of 10,000-15,000 words.