

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**  
**FACULTY OF ARTS**

**Master of Arts in Literary and Cultural Studies**

**CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT**

The Master of Arts in Literary and Cultural Studies curriculum consists of core course, elective courses and a capstone experience (Dissertation or Portfolio/Individual Project). The core course is a 9-credit course; all of the elective courses are 6-credit courses. A range of 180-270 hours of student learning, which includes all learning activities and experiences both within and outside the classroom, and any assessment tasks (including associated preparations), is the norm for a 9-credit course; a range of 120-180 hours of student learning is the norm for a 6-credit course. The curriculum has a minimum total study load of 1,200 hours, of which a minimum of 249 hours are contact hours.

1. Core Course (9 credits)

This core course is compulsory for all students in the Fall Semester of their first year. This course introduces literary and cultural approaches and examines critical perspectives in the study of texts and cultures of capitalism in a global context. Contact hours are in a range of 39-45 hours. Teaching combines lectures, discussion, writing workshops, consultation sessions and screenings with a heavy emphasis on reading and writing. Assessment is continuous by writing assignments which include weekly responses, short paper and term paper with a total output of around 6,000 words. In addition, students are obliged to attend essay writing workshops which also require significant amount of writing.

2. Elective Courses (6 credits)

All the electives are 6-credit courses. Contact hours are in a range of 33-39 hours. Teaching usually consists of lectures, discussion, consultation, screening and/or presentation. Assessment is continuous by writing essays, weekly responses and/or creative project and presentation. As a general guideline, regardless of the teaching method used, the total output should be around 4,000 words.

3. Capstone Experience: Dissertation (15 credits)

Students who have received B grade or above in 4 or more courses, and with the approval by the Chairperson of the Committee for the MA in Literary and Cultural Studies, may present a dissertation of 10,000-15,000 words as partial fulfilment of the requirements for the MA

degree. This involves 360 hours of learning activities which include research, writing workshops, dissertation writing as well as regular supervision, emails and feedback on draft materials. Contact hours are minimal (12-24 hours) because students do independent research work under the guidance of a supervisor.

#### 4. Capstone Experience: Portfolio/Individual Project (15 credits)

The Portfolio/Individual Project is an alternative option of completing the final requirement for the MA degree.

Students choosing the Portfolio option are required to revise approximately four individual papers (of 2,500-3,000 words each) from several different courses into a final paper of a total of 10,000-12,000 words with a mission statement (of 1,000-1,500 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.

Students choosing the Individual Project option will develop and produce an approved creative work under supervision. After completing the Creative Project, students will submit a written report of around 5,000-8,000 words of the project. The essential components of the written reports are: description of the ideas, practice, theory and context of the process and the result; critical reflections on the students' experience in the process, new understanding of the project's relationship to the academic study, and any further observations/insights related to the project.

The 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. Contact hours are minimal (12-24 hours) because students do independent research work under the guidance of a supervisor.