

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF ARTS

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing in English

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The MFA in Creative Writing in English programme offers students flexibility of contemporary voice through the intense study of craft, including foundations and historical modes. A unique and customized combination of coursework, workshops, and individual advising in the programme provides each student with the foundations and advanced practices toward the Creative Thesis. By the end of two years, students will acquire lifelong practices and mastery and have an original Creative Thesis drafted and revised for potential publication. The programme consists of five compulsory 9-credit courses and a 15-credit Creative Thesis (capstone experience). A total of 180 hours of student learning activities (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activities) with contact hours in a range of 24-50 hours is the norm of a 9-credit course. The programme has a total study load of 1,200 hours, of which 319 are contact hours.

1. Compulsory courses (9 credits)

These courses cover historical foundations and contemporary approaches to creative writing, introduce integrated practices and strategies of craft, research, and reading, address small and large problems in the Creative Thesis, and offer guided reading in selected works. Assessment is by 100% coursework which may take the form of written assignments, excerpts, craft reviews and response papers with a minimum written output of 3,750 words.

2. Capstone Experience: Creative Thesis (15 credits)

The Creative Thesis, to be completed in the second year of study, provides students with an opportunity to develop an original body of creative writing in their field of interest under individual supervision by acquiring the essential skills and craft. Students are expected to spend much of their time on independent research and writing. A study load of 300 hours of which 95 are contact hours are expected. Assessment is by 100% coursework including an original Creative Thesis of a minimum of 17,000 words.

MFA in Creative Writing in English: Credit Unit Statement

ENGL6110 Foundations I: Exploring the Field (9 credits)

180 hours of student learning

This course offers foundations in the field of creative writing.

The extraordinary passages between historical foundations and contemporary approaches to creative writing will be explored. We will focus on writers' elements of craft and the fluid intersections of genre and languages, giving each writer greater awareness and choice in drafting and revision.

Students will be asked to present selected readings and commentary in a presentation at the end of the semester.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

Contact Hours: 50 hours

- Lectures and Workshops: 34 hours
- Required Rehearsals for Collaboration on a Writing Project: 8 hours
- Presentation in the Black Box: 8 hours

Subtotal (1): 34+8+8=50 hours

Learning Activities: 130 hours

- 2 pieces of new material, under multiple revisions, combining to a minimum of 3750 words for workshop: 48 hours
- 15 craft-reviews of peers' original work: 48 hours
- selected homework practices and comments on guided writings and readings: 34 hours

Subtotal (2): 48+48+34=130 hours

Total Learning Hours: Subtotal(1) + Subtotal(2)=180 hours

ENGL6111 Foundations II: Contemporary Practices (9 credits)

180 hours of student learning

This course builds upon Foundations I, offering integrated practices and strategies in sessions and workshops. Students will practice, experiment and read as writers, heading toward the direction and selection of a Creative Thesis in Year Two, whether in literary fiction or other related genres, such as drama, screenwriting, poetry or creative nonfiction.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

Contact Hours: 50 hours

- Lectures and Workshops: 34 hours
- Required Rehearsals for Readings on a selected writer: 8 hours

- Readings on the selected writer: 8 hours

Subtotal (1): 34+8+8=50 hours

Learning Activities: 130 hours

- 2 pieces of new material, under multiple revisions, combining to a minimum of *3750 words* for workshop: 48 hours
- 15 craft-reviews of peers' original work: 48 hours
- selected homework practices and comments on guided writings and readings: 34 hours

Subtotal (2): 48+48+34=130 hours

Total Learning Hours : Subtotal(1) + Subtotal(2)=180

ENGL6112 Advanced Workshops I (9 credits)

180 hours of student learning

Advanced workshops will offer students a forum in which to discuss writing practices and each writer's work toward the structure and development of an original body of a work and the Creative Thesis.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

Contact Hours: 50 hours

- Lectures and Workshops: 34 hours
- Required Rehearsals for Black Box Event: 8 hours
- Black Box Presentation: 8 hours

Subtotal (1): 34+8+8=50 hours

Learning Activities: 130 hours

- 2 excerpts from a draft toward the thesis with a minimum of *3750 words* for review: 48 hours
- 15 craft-reviews of peers' original work: 48 hours
- Preparations for the required submission of *two selected and revised pieces* to a literary publication: 34 hours

Subtotal (2): 48+48+34=130 hours

Total Learning Hours : Subtotal(1) + Subtotal(2)=180 hours

ENGL6113 Advanced Workshops II (9 credits)

180 hours of student learning

Writers will consider how to identify and address small and large problems coming up in their Creative Theses. Through the close work of workshops and discussions, writers will further coordinate their near and long-term aims as writers, whether in crafting sentences, paragraphs or a book-length work.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

Contact Hours: 50 hours

- Lectures and Workshops: 34 hours
- Required Rehearsals for Black Box Readings of the Graduating Class of the MFA: 8 hours
- Black Box Readings: 8 hours

Subtotal (1): 34+8+8=50 hours

Learning Activities: 130 hours

- 2 excerpts of a minimum of 3750 words from the thesis for review: 48 hours
- 15 craft-reviews of peers' original work: 48 hours
- Preparations for the required submission of an excerpt *from the thesis* to a literary publication

Subtotal (2): 48+48+34=130 hours

Total Learning Hours : Subtotal(1) + Subtotal(2)=180 hours

ENGLXXXX: Reading for Writers (9 credits)

Note: this course must be completed in either Semester 2 or Semester 3

180 hours of student learning

Reading widely is essential to framing the array of choices that a writer has for revision. Therefore, writers in this individually-advised and customized course, based on the student's directions toward the Thesis, will study in close observation and detail the elements of craft in selected works. Passages of readings will be observed and analyzed for elements that the writer needs to strengthen the developing Thesis, such as unreliable narration, profluence, flashbacks, backstory, etc.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

Contact Hours: 24 hours

- Supervised contact by distance or in person on reading as a writer, craft, and elements of revision: 10 hours
- Supervised contact by distance or in person on integrating selected readings with the craft elements relevant to the work of the Thesis: 14 hours

Subtotal(1): 10+14=24 hours

Learning Activities: 156 hours

- Drafting and revising 2 guided response papers on craft *from selected readings*, regarding individually selected writers, chosen under the supervision of the Advisor, related to the work of the Creative Thesis: 46 hours
- Selected and customized assignments on reading bibliography, literary history, and craft, focusing on writers from at least three different periods: 75 hours
- 1 response paper of no less than 3750 words integrating response to craft *with a selected piece from the Thesis*: 35 hours

Subtotal (2): 46+75+35=156 hours

Total Learning Hours : Subtotal(1) + Subtotal(2)=180 hours

ENGL6114 Capstone: The Creative Thesis (15 credits: 2-semester course)

300 hours of student learning across two semesters

The original body of work of the Creative Thesis is the culmination for every writer in the course, a manuscript for submission after the close of the course for international circulation and potential publication.

This two-semester course of Advising on original creative work is designed to support the high-order endeavor of the creative writer, whose work depends of developing individual and sustained habits of writing over a lifetime.

This capstone course, under individual supervision, therefore, develops the essential skills and craft toward developing the Creative Writing Thesis, a primary and essential work representing the writer's voice, and potentially a key calling card in the writer's career: a major submission for potential publication after completion.

During this course, therefore, drafts and revisions are supervised: students will write and edit multiple and guided drafts, working with an Advisor. Revisions in this course build toward submission of the Creative Thesis at the end of the second year. At least two substantial submissions per semester, determined with the Advisor, in addition to guided readings, exercises, and drafts during two semesters will be individually scheduled with the Advisor.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

Contact Hours: 95 hours across two semesters

- Supervised writing: scheduled contact between the Advisor and the student, whether in person or by internet correspondence: 55 hours
- Rehearsals for Public Performance: 20 hours
- Public Performance of Readings of Selections from the Thesis: 20 hours

Subtotal (1): 55+20+20 =95 hours

Learning Activities: 205 hours across two semesters

- 2 substantial drafts with a minimum of 5000 words of new material toward the creative thesis: 60 hours
- 2 brief response papers in guided readings related to the thesis: 30 hours
- Selected and customized homework practices by the Advisor on development of the thesis: 20 hours
- Submission of an *original and completely revised Creative Thesis of a minimum of 17000 words*: 95 hours

Subtotal (2): 60+30+10=205 hours

Total Learning Hours : Subtotal(1) + Subtotal(2)=300 hours