

## SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HUMANITIES AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

These syllabuses apply to candidates admitted to the BA(HDT) curriculum in the academic year 2023-2024 and thereafter.

### Overall curriculum structure

Candidates are required to complete courses totaling not fewer than 240 credits, comprising:

Curriculum Structure	Credits
<b>University Graduation Requirements</b>	<b>54</b>
Common Core Curriculum	36
Language enhancement courses	18
Successful completion of any other non-credit bearing courses as required	
<b>Major in Humanities and Digital Technologies (HDT)*</b>	<b>96</b>
HUdT1001. Introduction to Humanities and Digital Technologies	6
STAT1016. Data science 101	6
COMP1117. Computer Programming	6
HUdT3001. Advanced Topics in Humanities and Digital Technologies	6
HUdT3100. Internship in Humanities and Digital Technologies	6
HUdT4001. Research Project in Humanities and Digital Technologies (Capstone Experience)	6
HDT advanced interdisciplinary electives	18
Humanities introductory elective(s)	6-12
Humanities advanced electives	30-36
<b>Electives</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>240</b>

\* This Major is not offered to students from other curricula.

### Notes:

- Candidates shall normally complete 60 credits in an academic year. The normal study load of Semester 1 and that of Semester 2 is 30 credits. Candidates may opt to take 36 credits in these semesters without seeking approval from the Faculty.
- 18 credits in language enhancement courses, including 6 credits in “CAES1000. Core University English”<sup>1</sup>, 6 credits in an “English in the Discipline” course and 6 credits in the Chinese language enhancement course<sup>2</sup>.
- To facilitate the research project required in Year 4, students are required to complete the Humanities electives from the same Programme (e.g. English Studies, History).
- 90 credits in elective courses, which may include courses offered by any Arts and non-Arts teaching unit(s), except the Common Core Curriculum. It is optional for candidates to pursue a second major or up to two minors. These second major and minor(s) can be offered by the Faculty

<sup>1</sup> Candidates who have achieved Level 5 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, or equivalent, are exempted from this requirement, and CAES1000 is optional. Those who do not take this course should take an elective course in lieu, see Regulation UG6.

<sup>2</sup> Candidates who have not studied the Chinese language during their secondary education may be exempted from this requirement and should take an elective in lieu, see Regulation UG6.

of Arts or other Faculties. Please note that candidates shall be required to take additional 6 credits for pursuing another major with requirements consisting of 96 credits.

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### **Common Core Curriculum (36 credits)**

Candidates are required to complete 36 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum within Year 1 to Year 3, comprising at least one and not more than two courses from each Area of Inquiry (AoI), with not more than 24 credits of courses being selected within one academic year except where candidates are required to make up for failed credits.

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### **Language Enhancement Courses (18 credits)**

- “CAES1000. Core University English” (6 credits) in Year 1
  - Take *one* of the following “English in the Discipline” courses (6 credits) in Year 2:
    - CAES9201. Academic English: Countries and Cultures
    - CAES9202. Academic English: Literary Studies
    - CAES9203. Academic English: Philosophy and the History of Ideas
    - CAES9204. Academic English: History
    - CAES9205. Academic English: Language Studies
    - CAES9206. Academic English: Creative and Visual Arts
  - Take *one* of the following Chinese language enhancement courses (6 credits) in Year 3:
    - CART9001. Practical Chinese for Arts Students
    - CUND9002. Practical Chinese and Hong Kong society (Note: for Putonghua-speaking students)
    - CUND9003. Cantonese for non-Cantonese Speaking Students (Note: for Putonghua-speaking students)
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### **Major in Humanities and Digital Technologies (HDT) (96 credits)**

- Compulsory courses: Take *all* the following courses (totaling 36 credits)
  - Year 1:
    - HUdT1001. Introduction to Humanities and Digital Technologies (6 credits); and
    - STAT1016. Data science 101 (6 credits)
  - Year 2:
    - COMP1117. Computer programming (6 credits)
  - Year 3:
    - HUdT3001. Advanced Topics in Humanities and Digital Technologies (6 credits)
  - Year 4:
    - HUdT4001. Research Project in Humanities and Digital Technologies (Capstone Experience) (6 credits)
  - Year 3 or 4:
    - HUdT3100. Internship in Humanities and Digital Technologies (6 credits)

- HDT advanced interdisciplinary electives: Take *three* of the following within Year 2 to Year 4 (totaling 18 credits)

*Faculty of Arts*

- AMER2064. Art, time, and new media (6 credits)
- ARTH2110. Archaeology and digital humanities in the field (6 credits)
- ARTH2111. Artifacts, technology, and archaeology (6 credits)
- CAES2002. Online Digital Storytelling in English (6 credits)
- CHIN2348. Bilingual studies in media and popular culture (6 credits)
- CLIT2026. Digital culture (6 credits)
- CLIT2100. Fugitive science: Science and technology studies (STS) approaches to facts and fakes (6 credits)
- ENGL2050. English corpus linguistics (6 credits)
- ENGL2103. Language and digital media (6 credits)
- ENGL2166. English phonetics (6 credits)
- GCIN2012. Introduction to video games studies (6 credits)
- GCIN2029. Understanding video games: How to design popular culture (6 credits)
- GCIN2035. Digital economy, media and entertainment (6 credits)
- GCIN2038. Entertainment markets and digital audiences in Asia (6 credits)
- GEND2010. Feminist science and technology studies (6 credits)
- HIST2204. Technology and society: A modern history (6 credits)
- HIST2205. Digital history: From concordances to big data (6 credits)
- HIST3080. Historical gaming (6 credits)
- LING2027. Phonology: An introduction to the study of sound systems (6 credits)
- LING2066. Variation Analysis (6 credits)
- LING2067. Natural language processing (6 credits)
- LING2068. Computational approaches to language (6 credits)
- LING2071. Introductory statistics for the humanities (6 credits)
- PHIL2225. The philosophy of artificial intelligence (6 credits)
- PHIL2230. Philosophy and cognitive science (6 credits)
- PHIL2656. Philosophy of virtual reality (6 credits)
- SINO3005. Science, technology, and society in China (6 credits)

*Faculty of Education*

- BSIM3021. Web development, users and management (6 credits)
- BSIM3025. Multimedia and human-computer interaction (6 credits)
- BSIM4019. Electronic commerce (6 credits)
- BSIM4024. Fundamentals of object-oriented programming (6 credits)
- BSIM4027. Selected topics in information management (6 credits)

*Faculty of Engineering*

- COMP3270. Artificial intelligence (6 credits)
- COMP3278. Introduction to database management systems (6 credits)
- COMP3314. Machine learning (6 credits)
- COMP3329. Computer game design and programming (6 credits)
- COMP3330. Interactive mobile application design and programming (6 credits)

- Humanities introductory elective(s): Take *6-12 credits* of introductory courses, except language-learning courses (e.g. “SWED1001. Swedish I.1”), from the following Arts Schools/Centres in Year 1

School of Chinese (excluding the Chinese Language Centre)  
 School of English  
 School of Humanities  
 School of Modern Languages and Cultures

Centre of Buddhist Studies

- Humanities advanced electives: Take *30-36 credits* of advanced courses, except language-learning courses (e.g. “SWED2001. Swedish II.1”), from the same Arts Programme of the introductory elective(s) taken previously within Year 2 to Year 4

Notes:

- 1) A course cannot be counted towards more than one requirement relating to a major and/or a minor. Hence, an Arts course listed as an “HDT interdisciplinary advanced elective” will be counted towards the HDT requirement by default. If this requirement is fulfilled, then it will be counted towards the requirement of “Humanities advanced electives”.
- 2) Candidates may be required to take additional course(s) to fulfil the pre-requisite(s) or co-requisite(s) of a HDT elective, a Humanities elective or a free elective. Please refer to the relevant Programme’s syllabuses for course descriptions and enrollment conditions.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

Not all courses are offered every semester or annually. Please check with the teaching units for their course offering around August.

### **Major in Humanities and Digital Technologies – Compulsory Courses**

#### **HUDT1001. Introduction to Humanities and Digital Technologies (6 credits)**

The course begins with the question ‘how does the humanities intersect with digital technology? Students will explore this intersection, and will engage with the ongoing critical discussions about the developing field of digital humanities. The course will ask in particular how scholars of the humanities use technology and digital methods in their research, how the humanities responds to questions of technology in society and culture, and how the humanities itself can drive technological advancement. Along the way, students will be introduced to a range of digital technologies and methods, representing both established and emerging digital research tools. Students will learn basic coding techniques that will enable them to work with a range of data. Over the course of the semester, students will develop the technical and theoretical foundation required for further study in humanities and digital technologies. Assessment: 100% coursework.

#### **STAT1016. Data science 101 (6 credits)**

The course introduces basic concepts and methodology of data science to junior undergraduate students. The teaching is designed at a level appropriate for all undergraduate students with various backgrounds and without pre-requisites. Students will engage in a full data work-flow including collaborative data science projects. They will study a full spectrum of data science topics, from initial investigation and data acquisition to the communication of final results. Specifically, the course provides exposure to different data types and sources, and the process of data curation for the purpose of transforming them to a format suitable for analysis. It introduces elementary notions in estimation, prediction and inference. Case studies involving less-manicured data are discussed to enhance the computational and analytical abilities of the students.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

**COMP1117. Computer Programming (6 credits)**

This is an introductory course in computer programming. Students will acquire basic Python programming skills, including syntax, identifiers, control statements, functions, recursions, strings, lists, dictionaries, tuples and files. Searching and sorting algorithms, such as sequential search, binary search, bubble sort, insertion sort and selection sort, will also be covered.

Assessment: 70% continuous assessment, 30% examination.

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**HUDT3001. Advanced Topics in Humanities and Digital Technologies (6 credits)**

This course will engage with some of the key critical debates that are influencing the ongoing development of digital humanities. At the same time, it will focus on the advanced issues of project management in the interdisciplinary and digital arenas. Theoretical topics that will be covered may include: interdisciplinarity in digital humanities; feminist digital humanities; digital ethics; algorithmic criticism; theories of making in the digital humanities; theories of modelling in digital humanities. Over the course of the semester, students will be guided to develop new ideas for digital projects in the humanities, which they may choose to expand into the work of the capstone project in HUDT4001.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**HUDT3100. Internship in Humanities and Digital Technologies (6 credits)**

This internship course provides students with an opportunity to broaden their undergraduate education through experiential learning. Students will acquire invaluable work experience, hone transferrable skills for a wide range of careers, and develop sharper awareness of the intersections between humanities and digital technologies in the workplace. Students enrolled into the course might work on research, fact checking, interviewing people, grant-writing and fund-raising, event management, writing documents, reports or copy for publication, translation and communication, interpersonal speaking and writing, networking and outreach, data management, text encoding and/or database construction, website creation, social media management, or project development.

At the end of the internship, students will submit a written report (approximately 2,000 words) on work/project(s) conducted during the internship and a critical reflection on the internship experience, signed by the organisation contact. The report should reflect on how their interdisciplinary training integrates with the workplace experience, and how the experience enhances their personal development and growth, including whether the experience has helped them identify their strengths and areas in need of improvement.

During the semester, students will meet with the course supervisor at least twice to discuss the internship progress and the written report. The assessment of their performance is not based on specific assignments but their ongoing workplace experience, the evaluation provided by the host organisation, as well as the written report. This course is credit-bearing but will not be counted in the calculation of CGPA as it is graded on a pass/fail basis.

Assessment: 100% coursework (graded on Pass/Fail basis).

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**HUDT4001. Research Project in Humanities and Digital Technologies (Capstone Experience) (6 credits)**

This final-year project enables students to pursue their individual interests in any aspect of the intersection between humanities and digital technologies under the supervision of a faculty member. While students may choose the research route of producing an extended essay of approximately 5,000 words (supported by research with a strong digital component), this capstone experience explicitly encourages creativity and innovation, and (subject to the approval of the course coordinator and supervisor), students may be approved to undertake a creative or digital development project. If the

latter option is chosen, students will also submit a written report (approx. 2,000 words) on their project, describing and reflecting on the process of their work. Students are expected to meet with their supervisors regularly and to present their work-in-progress to their supervisors in the course of the semester.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **Major in Humanities and Digital Technologies – Interdisciplinary Advanced Electives**

Please refer to the BA syllabuses, which is available at <https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/BA/regulations-syllabuses>, for the course descriptions and enrollment conditions of the eligible courses.

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### **Major in Humanities and Digital Technologies – Humanities Electives**

Please refer to the BA syllabuses, which is available at <https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/BA/regulations-syllabuses>, for the course descriptions and enrollment conditions of the eligible courses.

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### **English Language Enhancement Courses**

#### **CAES1000. Core University English (6 credits)**

The Core University English (CUE) course aims to enhance first-year students' academic English language proficiency in the university context. CUE focuses on developing students' academic English language skills for the Common Core Curriculum. These include the language skills needed to understand and produce spoken and written academic texts, express academic ideas and concepts clearly and in a well-structured manner and search for and use academic sources of information in their writing and speaking. Four online-learning modules through the Moodle platform on academic speaking, academic grammar, academic vocabulary, citation and referencing skills and avoiding plagiarism will be offered to students to support their English learning. This course will help students to participate more effectively in their first-year university studies in English, thereby enriching their first-year experience.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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#### **CAES9201. Academic English: Countries and Cultures (6 credits)**

This course aims to help students develop the English language skills they need to succeed in their major. The course is open to all BA students, but is most relevant to the needs of students majoring in, or intending to major in, American Studies, Chinese History and Culture, Chinese Language and Literature, China Studies, Comparative Literature, European Studies, Art History, Gender Studies, Global Creative Industries, Hong Kong Studies, Japanese Studies, Korean Studies, a modern language, and Music. The primary aim of CAES9201 is to enable students to read texts on cultures, history and politics, and to use a range of rhetorical features to produce persuasive disciplinary essays. The course has a substantial secondary focus on the development of disciplinary speaking and listening skills.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**CAES9202. Academic English: Literary Studies (6 credits)**

This course aims to help students develop the English language skills they need to succeed in their major. The course is open to all BA students, but is most relevant to the needs of students majoring in, or intending to major in, Comparative Literature, English Studies, Art History, and Translation. The primary aim of CAES9202 is to enable students to read English fiction and literary criticism, and to use a range of rhetorical features to produce persuasive disciplinary essays. The course has a substantial secondary focus on the development of disciplinary speaking and listening skills.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**CAES9203. Academic English: Philosophy and the History of Ideas (6 credits)**

This course aims to help students develop the English language skills they need to succeed in their major. The course is open to all BA students, but is most relevant to the needs of students majoring in, or intending to major in, Philosophy; students of other majors such as Comparative Literature, Chinese History and Culture, Art History and Gender Studies will find the history of ideas element of the course useful. The primary aim of CAES9203 is to enable students to read texts on philosophy and the development of influential, critical ideas (e.g. Marxism, liberalism, critical theory), and to use a range of analytical and rhetorical techniques to produce persuasive disciplinary essays. The course has a substantial secondary focus on the development of disciplinary speaking and listening skills.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**CAES9204. Academic English: History (6 credits)**

This course aims to help students develop the English language skills they need to succeed in their major. The course is open to all BA students, but is most relevant to the needs of students majoring in, or intending to major in, American Studies, Chinese History and Culture, China Studies, European Studies, Art History, Gender Studies, History, Hong Kong Studies, Japanese Studies, Korean Studies, or Music. The primary aim of CAES9204 is to enable students to read history texts, and to use a range of rhetorical features to produce persuasive disciplinary essays. The course has a substantial secondary focus on the development of disciplinary speaking and listening skills.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**CAES9205. Academic English: Language Studies (6 credits)**

This course aims to help students develop the English language skills they need to succeed in their major. The course is open to all BA students, but is most relevant to the needs of students majoring in, or intending to major in, Chinese Language and Literature, English Studies, General Linguistics, Language and Communication, a modern language, and Translation. The primary aim of CAES9205 is to enable students to read linguistics and translation texts, and to use a range of rhetorical features to produce persuasive disciplinary essays. The course has a substantial secondary focus on the development of disciplinary speaking and listening skills.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**CAES9206. Academic English: Creative and Visual Arts (6 credits)**

This course aims to help students develop the English language skills they need to succeed in their major. The course is open to all BA students, but is most relevant to the needs of students majoring in, or intending to major in, Comparative Literature, Art History, Gender Studies, Global Creative Industries, and Music. The primary aim of CAES9206 is to enable students to read texts on creative

and visual arts, and to use a range of rhetorical features to produce persuasive disciplinary essays. The course has a substantial secondary focus on the development of disciplinary speaking and listening skills.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **Chinese Language Enhancement Courses**

#### **CART9001. Practical Chinese for Arts Students (6 credits)**

This course is designed to promote the students' professional use of Chinese language in the workplace. The course will familiarize students with modern Chinese grammar, the correction of mistakenly written Chinese characters and various types of practical Chinese writings in professional contexts. Students are required to complete a series of communication-rich oral and written assignments and an examination. Special emphasis is given to the style and rhetoric of reader-based writings to heighten students' linguistic sensitivity.

This course will be offered in the second semester of the third year.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

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#### **CUND9002. Practical Chinese and Hong Kong society (6 credits)**

This course is specifically designed for the students from the Mainland. With Putonghua as the medium of instruction, it aims to underscore the characteristic styles and formats of practical Chinese writings in the workplace context in Hong Kong. Topics addressing the rhetorical strategies for reader-oriented professional writings are included to strengthen the students' command of the language. The evolution of Cantonese and the lexical and phonetic systems of this dialect will be explored. The local history and culture of Hong Kong will also be considered. On-site visits are organized to deepen the students' understanding of local traditions and, more importantly, to enhance their ability to appreciate and accept cultural and regional differences. Students will be able to apply the concepts and skills to accomplish different tasks effectively and persuasively in diverse and complex issues in oral and written forms as well as to produce good-quality practical writing.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

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#### **CUND9003. Cantonese for non-Cantonese speaking students (6 credits)**

Through a comparative analysis of Putonghua and Cantonese, this course enables students to learn the characteristics of Hong Kong Chinese, to discover the differences in vocabulary and expression between the Cantonese dialect and Mandarin, to strengthen their communication skills in everyday life, and to have a proper understanding of the culture, traditions and people in Hong Kong.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

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