

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Bachelor of Arts

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The Bachelor of Arts programmes consist of a wide variety of courses which are taught using various learning modes. The majority of courses are 6-credit courses. Arts programmes also offer a smaller number of courses with 9 and 12-credit weightings. A range of 120-180 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) is the norm for a 6-credit course. Students must complete 180-270 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) for a 9-credit course. Students must complete 240-360 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) for a 12-credit course.

The teaching/learning mode of the majority of courses is lecture and seminar/tutorial, supplemented by directed activities and private study. 6-credit courses normally have 24-36 hours of contact. However, some may have different learning modes and, consequently, fewer contact hours. Exceptions include Research courses, Project courses, Workshop courses, Field Trip and Fieldwork courses, where contact hours are minimal (6-12 hours for a 6-credit course) because students do independent research work under the guidance of a supervisor; and Internship courses where contact hours are even fewer (4-6 hours) because students engage in independent learning experiences and meet with supervisors mainly during the preparation and the reporting stages; Study Abroad courses involve limited contact hours as learning mainly takes place at institutions overseas; and contact hours for Music Performance courses are higher in number because students gain practical experience of music making; Online courses involve no (or very few) face-to-face contact hours because learning mainly takes place online.

9-credit courses normally have 24-30 hours of contact because in these courses students study in depth approved topics of their choice under the guidance of a supervisor. Contact hours are normally in a range of 6-24 hours for 12-credit courses, because students do independent research work under the guidance of a supervisor.

Most courses are assessed 100% by continuous assessment, though examinations may comprise up to 60% of assessment in a small number of courses. The method of assessment is at the discretion of the individual course teachers who are encouraged to use diverse assessment tasks with a view to ensuring that student performance in relation to the stated learning outcomes of their course is effectively assessed. Such tasks typically include essays, project reports, in-class tests, mid-course and end-of-course examinations (both seen and unseen), journals and portfolios. Given the diversity of assessment methods, it is difficult to quantify and standardize the output. As a general guide, regardless of the teaching method used, the total output should be not more than 8,000 words for a 6-credit course; not more than 10,000 words for a 9-credit course; and not more than 15,000 words for a 12-credit course.

The courses may be summarised as follows:

1. *Introductory courses* (6 credits)

These are often pre-requisite courses for students wishing to pursue a major or minor in the relevant programme. These courses provide students with basic or foundational knowledge, and introduce them to the disciplinary area. Courses are normally taught using a combination of lectures and small group seminars or tutorials, though they are mainly lecture-based. These courses allow students to develop skills of analysis, research, communication, and critical inquiry early in their undergraduate careers. Assessments range from 50% to (more commonly) 100% coursework, with up to 50% examination. Assessed coursework takes the form of essays, class tests, and contribution to tutorial discussion. Essay(s) usually range from 1,500-2,000 words; and other coursework may include weekly written assignments, short essays and in-class quizzes, making a total written output ranging between 3,000-8,000 words.

2. *Foundation/ Foundational courses* (6 credits)

They are first or second-year courses, and are also often pre-requisite or core courses for students wishing to pursue a major or minor in the relevant programme. These courses introduce students to critical perspectives, foundational concepts, and text analysis skills and form part of their introduction to the discipline. Courses are normally taught using a combination of lectures and small group seminars or tutorials, though they are mainly lecture-based. Teaching usually consists of lectures, and small group meetings. Assessment is by writing assignments which include short essays, responses, journals, and other means with a total output of no more than -8,000 words.

3. *Introductory language courses* (6 credits)

These first or second year courses emphasize the learning of the foreign language. Students acquire a basic knowledge in the four areas of competence (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) with a particular emphasis on communicative skills. Classes are conducted in small groups in order to ensure a high degree of interactivity between students and teachers. Conversation groups and laboratory groups are usually also arranged separately on a regular basis. Students will be able to acquire a vocabulary of 1,000 to 1,500 words and are expected to demonstrate that they are able to use this vocabulary within the four areas of competence mentioned above. Assessment is based upon 100% coursework, which includes in-class tests, regular assignments, and online reading and listening, with a total written output of not more than 2,000 words (bearing in mind that it is required to be in the foreign target language). It must be emphasized that assessable output is not only in written form, but also includes a student's performance in terms of spoken, listening, and reading proficiency in the foreign language.

4. *Survey courses* (6 credits)

The courses focus on content and are taught predominantly by lectures and tutorials/seminars. There may be other types of meetings, such as film screenings. Assessment methods are left up to individual teachers who are encouraged to introduce assessment tasks which are appropriate to the stated learning outcomes of the courses.

Assessment tasks will normally include the writing of essays, reports and in-class tests totalling no more than 8,000 words.

5. Lecture courses (6 credits)

These courses are open to both second and third year students, and each deals with a particular theme or area of disciplinary study. They are lecture-based courses and are taught primarily through large-group meetings with some small-group meetings, and in some cases workshops. Assessment can take the form of short or long essays, class tests and class presentations. The assessment distribution may range between 50-100% coursework and 50-100% examination. Assessment tasks normally include essays totalling no more than 8,000 words.

6. Seminar courses (6 credits)

These courses are intended for students in the senior years of the Arts degree programme and focus on specialist subject matter relating to core debates, documents, theories or methodologies in the relevant discipline. They are taught in a combination of lectures and seminars with an emphasis on individual reading and research. Assessment is by various methods including essays, small-group work exercises, research reports, seminar reports, journals, portfolios and seminar presentations totalling no more than 8,000 words. The assessment distribution may range between 50-100% coursework and 50-100% examination.

7. Small group courses (6 credits)

These senior-level courses build on the introductory level courses in the Faculty's language programmes by emphasizing the learning of the target language at an intermediate or advanced level. Students develop further their proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Classes are conducted in small groups in order to ensure a high degree of interactivity between students and teachers. Conversation groups and laboratory groups are also arranged separately on a regular basis. Assessment is based upon 100% coursework, including regular assignments, essays, small research projects, portfolios, and/or short oral presentations, with a written output of no more than 4,000 words in for 6-credit courses. In the case of language courses this is completed in the target language. Assessable output is not only in written form, but also includes a student's performance in terms of spoken, listening, and reading proficiency in the target language.

8. Research courses (6 credits; 12 credits)

These courses are taught as 6-credit courses and as 12-credit two-semester courses. These courses aim at providing students with an opportunity to pursue their own research interests, through in-depth study of a specific topic usually under the direct supervision of and in consultation with a teacher. Students spend much of their time on individual research and writing. Assessment is through a single research report, normally a research essay, dissertation, 'long translation project' or 'Senior Thesis' of less than 8,000 for a 6-credit course and less than 15,000 words for a 12-credit course in total.

9. Advanced Topical courses (6 credits)

In these 6-credit courses students focus on theoretical and topical issues. Teaching combines lectures and seminars with heavy emphasis on reading, discussion, and writing. Assessment is continuous and includes the completion of discussion reports and long essays totalling no more than 5,000 words.

10. *Workshop courses* (6 credits; 12 credits)

These courses are mostly taught as 6-credit courses. However, there are also a small number of 12-credit Workshop courses (the latter ranging across two semesters). These courses aim at enriching students' research skills and encouraging group work through workshop, laboratory and, in some cases, internship situations. These courses require intensive research and group work both inside and outside the classroom. Output requirements vary according to whether the projects are individual or group-based, but no student is expected to produce more than 8,000 words in the case of 6-credit courses, and 15,000 words in the case of 12-credit courses.

11. *Internship* (6 credits)

They aim at providing senior students with an opportunity to work in environments where they will be able to apply their disciplinary knowledge and skills, and students acquire work experience through on-the-job training. Internship positions are arranged for students enrolling in these courses. The student learning activities include preparation, on-site internship work, and all associated reading and assessment-related work. The courses are assessed by written reports of no more than 8,000 words and feedback from the internship (or 'field') supervisor.

12. *Fieldwork courses* (6 credits; 12 credits)

These courses aim at giving some practical experience. Most of these experiences take place in local contexts. Fieldwork courses begin with a small number of lectures but are predominantly practical in nature. Assessment is generally through essay(s) or portfolio work not exceeding 8,000 words in total. This 6-credit course may be expanded to a 12-credit course with an extended research paper.

13. *Field Trip courses* (6 credits; 12 credits)

These courses are normally taught as 6-credit courses. They aim at providing senior students with an opportunity to experience other cultures at first-hand and to develop their expertise (and in many cases language skills). Fieldtrip courses may include lectures in preparation for a trip in which students collect data for individual or group projects. The field trip itself may encompass attendance at a summer school and/or an independent research project on a topic approved by teaching staff in the relevant department. It might also involve cultural activities, and preparatory and review activities which could include a final research presentation. Assessment is generally through essay(s), field reports or portfolio work not exceeding 8,000 words in total. This 6-credit course may be expanded to a 12-credit course with an extended research paper.

14. *Laboratory courses* (6 credits)

These courses are taught as 6-credit courses. Laboratory learning is an integral part of programmes run in the faculty, in particular language programmes, and the teaching of

oral translation. In these courses students participate in interpretation exercises and also receive individual guidance through their headphones from their instructor who monitors their performance at the teacher's console. Students also sharpen their translation skills and benefit from oral practice. Assessment is by 100% coursework, and includes projects, in-class recording tests, and online reading and listening exercises, with a written output of not more than 2,000 words.

15. *Online courses* (6 credits)

These courses are offered online. Students interact with teachers and other students by e-mail and in discussion forums. Course material is provided online. Each course involves self-paced learning. Assessment is by 100% coursework, and is predominantly by problems sets and tests.

16. *Translation courses* (6 credits).

These courses focus on problems arising from translating concepts and ideas to and from a target language into Chinese (Mandarin/Cantonese) and/or English. The courses also aim to reinforce students' skills in the target language. They are taught in seminar format and include class debates and problem-solving discussions. Assessment is 100% coursework, predominantly translation exercises totalling no more than 4,000 words.

17. *Study Abroad courses* (6 credits)

Usually offered during the summer between the second and third year, and organized for students enrolled in language programmes by several universities and teaching institutions from one of the countries where the target language is spoken, these courses are designed to build on and to reinforce language competence acquired during the first two years of study of the foreign language. These courses have a minimum duration of 3 weeks and they prepare students for more advanced work in their final year of study. The percentage of assessment by coursework and/or by final examination will vary depending on the host institution.

18. *Project courses* (6 credits; 9 credits and 12 credits)

These courses aim at providing students enrolled in the Faculty's language programmes with an opportunity to pursue their own research interests under the one-on-one supervision of a teacher. The courses involve regular face-to-face supervision, emails and feedback on draft materials. Students study an approved topic of their choice in the target language. They are required to present their findings to their supervisor and students taking the same course. In 6-credit courses, the written project is no more than 6,000 word. For the 9-credit courses, the written project is no more than 8,000 words in length. Year-long 12-credit Project courses aim at allowing students to learn skills related to the application of history in the workplace through group projects. Professionals are involved in teaching the courses and professional standards are encouraged throughout the project work. These courses are intended to be of particular interest to students interested in pursuing careers in related fields, or postgraduate studies or careers in writing. In 12-credit Project courses students submit a written project of no more than 15,000 words at the end of the course.

19. *Music Performance courses* (6 credits)

Students taking a Performance course have to enrol in two performance ensembles or workshops over two semesters. Performance ensembles are designed to give students the practical experience of music-making in a variety of contexts. The assessment of ensembles usually includes a public performance at the end of the academic year. Performance workshops are designed to develop and reinforce the good performance habits which are essential for making further progress. The assessment of performance workshops usually includes a performance examination at the end of the academic year.

20. *Advanced Music Performance course* (6 credits)

Advanced performance courses are intended for students who are interested in developing performance skills intensively under the supervision of a vocal or instrumental teacher approved by the department over two semesters. 'Master classes' may be arranged each year for advanced performance students. The assessment of these courses usually includes a formal recital at the end of the academic year.

21. *Senior colloquium* (6 credits)

These courses are designed as capstone courses offering students an opportunity to integrate and reflect upon what they have learned in the major while focusing on current topics and critical debates in English studies. There are no formal lectures but weekly meetings for the discussion of texts and issues, led by students. Assessment is based on contributions to colloquium discussions and one or several writing assignments with a total output of approx. 5,000 words.

22. *Advanced language courses* (6 credits)

These second-, third-, and fourth-year language courses build on the introductory language courses, thus they emphasize the learning of the foreign language at an intermediate and advanced level, grammatically as well as in culture-specific issues which are gradually introduced into the curriculum. Students develop further their proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in the foreign language. As in the introductory language courses, classes are conducted in small groups in order to ensure a high degree of interactivity between students and teachers. Conversation groups are also arranged separately on a regular basis. Assessment is based upon 100% coursework, including regular assignments, essays, small research projects, portfolios, and/or short oral presentations, with a total written output of not more than 4,000 words (bearing in mind that it is required to be in the foreign target language). It must be emphasized that assessable output is not only in written form, but also includes a student's performance in terms of spoken, listening, and reading proficiency in the foreign language.

23. *Dissertation* (12 credits)

Students in this course will be expected to submit a written dissertation (approx. 9,000 words) based on research. Students will be expected to conduct field work in either China or Taiwan as part of this course. The course involves 150 hours of student learning activity including 48 contact hours of an induction workshop, as well as regular supervision, emails and feedback on draft materials. The dissertation must demonstrate

the student's capacity to formulate a research problem and answer this research problem using interdisciplinary methods. The course is assessed by 100% coursework.