

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT****Minor in Buddhist Studies**

The Buddhist Studies minor comprises three different types of courses aimed at giving students a broad-based education on Buddhist Studies and its relation to other world religions, society, language, art, film, and psychology. In each course, students will be encouraged to develop knowledge of a given subject and also acquire a variety of transferable skills, including but not limited to the following: 1) frame well-structured evidence-based arguments orally and in writing; 2) integrate and critically apply academic theory into research; 3) synthesize facts, ideas and information retrieved from different strands of sources; 4) draw conclusions from the validity and cogency of arguments; and 5) develop independent thinking, self-reflection, and observation in a cogent manner.

All courses offered are 6-credit courses that normally involve 24-36 contact hours and 120-180 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning). The total student learning hours for the minor in Buddhist Studies are not fewer than 720 hours. Assessment items and tasks may include tests, assignments, group and individual projects, presentation, class participation, examination and critical essays with no more than a total of 5,000 words per course. Students will be asked to demonstrate presentational skills, independent study skills, research techniques and other means of liberal arts learning.

The three categories of courses in the Buddhist Studies programme may be summarized as follows:

1. Introductory Courses (6 credits)

The aim of these required introductory courses is to lay foundation of the ethical and intellectual teachings of religions, and to make comparative appraisals of the roles that Buddhism and other religions play in different societies, communities and historical periods. Students will acquire a solid understanding of theory and in the method in the academic study of religion, being introduced to some of the defining debates, concern and approaches in the field of religious studies, as well as the history of the field. Furthermore, students will be trained to discern between major doctrines, practices and schools of Buddhism. Contact hours are normally two per week in the form of lectures. Assessment items and tasks may include tests, assignments, projects, presentations and class participation, and essays with no more than a total of 5,000 words per course. These courses are assessed by 100% coursework.

2. Lecture courses (6 credits)

Lecture courses are both specialised and interdisciplinary in scope and focus on traditional and contemporary histories of Buddhism, institutional and doctrinal developments, lay and monastic practices, formulations of religious values and their societal, literary and artistic expressions across Asia. The aim of these advanced courses is to facilitate students' learning through disciplinary methods and cross-disciplinary dialogue as well as, theoretical and empirical modes of inquiry and self-critical experiential reflection. Similar to the introductory courses, assessment items and tasks may include group projects, in-class tests, class participation, assignments, in-class presentations, long and short essays with no more than a

total of 5,000 words per course. These courses are assessed by 100% coursework.

3. *Language courses* (6 credits)

The aims of language courses are to train students to acquire a basic competence in the languages of literary Buddhism in Asia, including instruction in classical Tibetan, Pāli, Chinese and Sanskrit, and to provide them with a firm foundation for appreciating the intellectual and cultural traditions of Buddhism. Students may select language courses offered by other HKU programmes such as Japanese, Korean, Thai, and Chinese as a foreign language. No prior knowledge of the languages is required or expected. Assessment items and tasks may include tests, assignments, projects, presentations, class participation and written examinations. These courses are normally assessed by 50% coursework and 50% examinations.

April 2016

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