THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Bachelor of Arts Programme in Chinese Studies

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The Chinese Studies Programme features a variety of courses that fall into five distinctive categories. Bearing either 6 credits or 12 credits, these courses are conducted and assessed in different manners, with 120-180 hours being the norm for a 6-credit course and 240-360 hours being the norm for a 12-credit course. Contact hours are in a range of 24-36 hours for a 6-credit course except for Fieldwork Courses, where contact hours are minimal (6-12 hours for a 6-credit course) because students conduct independent research and site visits 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. As a general guide, regardless of the teaching method used, the total output should be 6,000-8,000 Chinese characters for a 6-credit course; and should not be more than 15,000 Chinese characters for a 12-credit course. Most courses are assessed 100% by continuous assessment, though examinations may comprise up to 60% of assessment in some courses. Output requirements for courses where the performance of students is evaluated with 100% continuous assessment may include contributions to group projects, in addition to essays, reviews, journals and research papers. The following types of courses are offered in the Programme:

1. *Introductory courses* (6 credits)
One of the main purposes of these first-year courses is to introduce students to the skills essential to the discipline. These courses are taught through a combination of lectures and tutorials. The main forms of assessment are student portfolios and short weekly assignments, usually with a combined output requirement of not more than 8,000 Chinese characters in total.

2. *Lecture courses* (6 credits)
These courses are intended primarily to familiarize students with the characteristic features of Chinese history, culture, language and literature. The principal modes of teaching are lectures, workshops and tutorials. Students are normally required to submit written outputs of not more than 8,000 Chinese characters in total.

3. *Fieldwork courses* (6 credits)
In these courses, equal importance is attached to lectures, which are mostly practical in nature, and site visits that provide students with first-hand knowledge and hands-on experience. The written output will usually be in the form of a report or essay of not more than 8,000 Chinese characters in total.

4. *Seminar courses* (6 credits)
With a heavy emphasis on student involvement in discussions, exchanges and research activities, these courses consist of a combination of lectures and seminars that provide a platform for dialogue and debate. The written outputs will usually be in the form of essays or seminar reports of not more than 8,000 Chinese characters in total and students are required to take part in seminar presentations on topics of their own choice.

5. *Research courses: capstone* (6 credits; 12 credits)
The primary focus of these courses is on developing students' skills by conducting scholarly investigations into particular topics. The major task students undertake is research and

writing. The finished product will usually be in the form of a research report of not more than 8,000 Chinese characters for a 6-credit course or a dissertation of not more than 15,000 Chinese characters for a 12-credit course in total.