

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Bachelor of Arts Programme in Global and Area Studies
(applicable to students admitted in 2024-25 and thereafter)

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The Global and Area Studies programme offered as a Major by the School of Modern Languages and Cultures comprises four different types of courses which are taught using distinctive learning modes. The total number of credits for the major is 72 and all courses are 6-credit courses. The normal range of student learning activity for a 6-credit course is 120-180 hours including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity. Total contact hours for the major will not be fewer than 270 hours. Contact hours are in a range of 24-72 contact hours for a 6-credit courses except for (a) Research courses in which students do independent research work under the guidance of a supervisor and the contact time with the supervisor is 12-24 hours, and (b) Experiential Learning courses in which students participate in field trips, guide visits, exchange programmes as well as internships, the preparatory activities and the contact time with the teacher in charge is 6-12 hours but the overseas language course is at least 60 hours. The total student learning hours for the major in Global and Area Studies are not fewer than 1,440 hours.

The teaching and learning modes of the majority of courses are lecture, workshop, and seminar/tutorial, supplemented by directed activities and self-study. However, some may have different learning modes and, consequently, fewer contact hours on campus, such as the Research courses, where contact hours are minimal (6-12 hours for a 6-credit course) because students mainly do independent field or research work under the guidance of a supervisor. As a general guide, regardless of the teaching method used, the total output should be not more than 5,000 words in English or, unless specified, in a target language for a 6-credit course. Most of the courses are assessed by 100% coursework, with some cross-listed courses assessed by a combination of 40% to 100% coursework and 0% to 60% examination. The categories of the Global and Area Studies courses are as follows:

1. *Introductory courses* (6 credits)

These introductory courses, to be taken in the first or second year of study, include content and language courses. Content courses are interdisciplinary and showcase the best contemporary international scholarship on various regions of the world and global issues in the arts and social sciences. Language courses emphasize the learning of a language. Students acquire a basic knowledge in the four areas of competence (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) and grammar, with a particular emphasis on communicative skills. Assessments include essays, projects, presentations, tests, and regular assignments. A particular course's evaluation scheme may include a writing assignment based on original research (from 3,000 to 5,000 words) for the content course. For language courses, students will produce written outputs totaling no more than 2,000 words in the target language.

2. *Advanced courses* (6 credits)

These advanced courses include content and language courses. Some of these content courses will concentrate on methodology. These courses are designed to equip students with basic concepts and principles relevant to arts and social sciences research. Students will learn how to conduct arts and social sciences research and how to perform quantitative and qualitative

data analysis in their studies. Other advanced courses will introduce students to a variety of specialized topics about political, economic, social, and cultural development from the early modern era to present day. These courses emphasize methodological issues and disciplinary dialogues and encourage innovative and boundary-crossing modes in intellectual inquiry. The advanced language courses build on the introductory language courses. They emphasize the learning of the 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 language. Teaching and learning mode of some courses will also include meeting with supervisors and independent writing. Students are assessed based on essays, projects, presentations, in-class performance, tests, assignments, questionnaires, compositions, group debates, performance in group and class discussion, and individual project with a total output of 3,000-5,000 words for written outputs in the content courses in English. For language courses, students will produce written outputs totaling no more than 4,000 words in the target language.

3. *Research courses* (6 credits)

These research courses are designed to integrate what students have learned in the Global and Area Studies programme and focus on honing research and analytical skills. The courses entail in-depth research by the student on a pertinent topic related to Global and Area Studies, which must be approved and supervised by a staff member of the Global and Area Studies programme. Students are required to participate in an induction workshop and to schedule and attend regular meetings with their supervisors, and participate in independent field or research work. Supervision will be carried out through in-person meetings supplemented by written correspondence. Students are assessed based on presentations, performance in group and class discussions, their performance during the preparation as well as the actual final draft of their research papers (3,500 to 5,000 words and must be supported with an extensive bibliography).

4. *Experiential Learning courses* (6 credits)

These courses aim at providing students with opportunities to develop their abilities in intercultural communication as well as to enhance their experiential knowledge of various parts of the world, thus providing them with the capability to solve social problems, analyze social and policy issues, and promote intercultural understanding and interconnectedness at a global level. These courses also provide students with platforms to engage in cross-cultural learning and enhance their ability to engage with the places and human communities that they study. Experiential learning will take the forms of exchange programme, guided visits, internship, field trip and summer language courses in overseas institutions. Assessment is based on assignments, reflective reports, research work, presentations, tests, performance in group and class discussions, transcript from host institution and evaluation from the internship organisation. Total written output will be no more than 3,000 words for content courses. For language courses, an output in written and spoken forms totaling no more than 4,000 words in the target language.

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