

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Bachelor of Arts Programme in History

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The History Programme consists of six different types of courses which are taught using distinctive learning modes. The majority of courses are 6-credit courses, but we also have a small number of 12-credit courses. 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 240-360 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) for a 12-credit course.

Contact hours are in a range of 24-36 hours for a 6-credit course, except for Research 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 workshop courses, for which hours range from 6-12 as students engage in independent project work. Contact hours are minimal for a 12-credit course (6-24 hours for Research courses, and for Project courses) because students do independent research work or project work under the guidance of a supervisor.

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 6,000 words for a 6-credit course; and not more than 10,000 words for a 12-credit course. Courses are assessed with 100% continuous assessment. The six categories of History courses may be summarised as follows:

1. *Survey courses* (6 credits)

These courses focus on content and are taught predominantly by lectures, tutorials/seminars, museum trips, films, field trips, and other teaching activities. 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 fieldwork assignments and research essays, quizzes and participation in tutorials, class participation, portfolios, tutorial performance, workshop performance, field trip performance, document studies, book reviews, and the writing of essays, reports and in-class tests totalling not more than 6,000 words. The majority of the History programme's courses fall under the 'Survey' category.

2. *Seminar courses* (6 credits)

These courses are intended for students who are more advanced in the programme and focus on historical debates, documents or methodologies and are taught in a combination of lectures, tutorials and seminars with a heavy emphasis on private reading and research, and other teaching activities. Assessment is by various methods including take-home tests, seminar performance, class participation, essays, research reports, seminar reports, document studies, book reviews, journals, portfolios, and seminar presentations totalling not more than 6,000 words in total.

3. *Research courses: capstone* (6 credits; 12 credits)

These courses aim at providing students with an opportunity to pursue their own research interests under the supervision of a teacher. Contact hours are minimal because students spend much of their time on individual research and writing. Assessment is through a single research report, normally a research essay (of not more than 5,000 words for a 6-credit course) or a dissertation (of not more than 10,000 words for a 12-credit course).

4. *Workshop courses* (6 credits)

These courses aim at enriching a History student's research skills and encouraging group work through workshop and laboratory situations in which historical research is introduced in the local context. The assessment projects for 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 6,000 words in total. Students may be evaluated on their performance in workshop situations.

5. *Fieldwork courses: capstone* (6 credits)

These courses aim at giving some practical experience of history. Most of these experiences take place in local contexts. Fieldwork courses begin with a small number of lecture hours but are predominantly practical in nature with most learning taking place during field trips. Students will also participate in tutorials and other teaching activities. Assessment is generally through essay(s), projects, journals or portfolio work of not more than 6,000 words in total, but students may also be evaluated on their performance in class and in the field.

6. *Project courses: capstone* (12 credits)

These year-long 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. Students will participate in workshops and other teaching activities. 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. Assessment is generally through essay(s) or portfolio work of not more than 10,000 words in total, workshop/group performance, and published outputs.