

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Credit Unit Statement (CUS) of Taught Programmes

Faculty / Offering Unit: Faculty of Arts

Programme title: Master of Arts in the field of Hong Kong Cultural Studies

Applicable student cohort(s): 2026/2027 and thereafter

The Master of Arts in the field of Hong Kong Cultural Studies curriculum requires the student to take 7 lecture courses (1 core and 6 elective), 1 seminar course (1 core course) and the capstone course. The curriculum also offers cross-listed courses for the student to register as elective courses from other academically relevant MA programmes. The 6-credit course requires the student to have 120–180 hours of learning activity inclusive of 24 contact hours. The 12-credit course is an MA capstone project requiring the student to have 240–360 hours of learning activity. Given that the student spends most of the time for independent research under the supervision of a teacher, the contact hours in this 12-credit course are in the range of 11–16 hours. The curriculum study load is a minimum of 1,200 hours, of which there is a range of 203–208 contact hours.

There are 4 categories of courses in this programme, as outlined below:

1. Lecture courses (6 credits per course)

All the courses in the curriculum are lecture courses, except the core course “HKGS7001 Hong Kong Cultural Studies: Theories and Research Methods” and the capstone experience course. The lecture courses are designed to introduce the student to the latest trends, up-to-date knowledge, and the theoretical discussions on Hong Kong Cultural Studies. The mode of teaching mainly is a 2-contact-hour lecture. In each course, the total number of contact hours is 24, consisting of 2 hours of lectures in each of 12 weeks. The total number of student learning hours is 120 to 180. The student is required to write an individual paper on a respective topic of not less than 4,000 words in English. The assessment is 100% by coursework.

2. Seminar course (6 credits)

The seminar course “HKGS7001 Hong Kong Cultural Studies: Theories and Research Methods” is designed to not only equip students with up-to-date knowledge, theories, and methodologies related to Hong Kong Studies, but also offer an opportunity for students to exchange ideas with teachers and peers, to formulate research questions and develop independent research skills. In this course, there are two modes of teaching and learning: first, the lecture introduces students to key theories and methods essential for understanding Hong Kong Cultural Studies; and second, the combination of lectures and presentations offers an interactive way to explore key issues and theories on Hong Kong literature, culture, and society. The second type begins with a brief introduction on the pressing issue and theoretical debates on Hong Kong Cultural Studies and is followed by student oral presentations and discussion on the respective issues. The total number of contact hours is 24, consisting of 2 hours of lectures in each of 12 weeks. The total number of student learning hours is 120 to 180. The students are required to give an individual oral presentation on the pressing issue of Hong Kong Cultural Studies, submit two reflective reports (each report 1,000 words in English), and write an individual paper (4,000 words in English) on a topic selected from the weekly lectures. They are also required to demonstrate the ability to apply critical theories and research methods in their oral presentations and individual assignments. The assessment is 100% by coursework.

3. Cross-listed courses (6 credits per course)

There are cross-listed courses with other programmes, for example the postgraduate courses offered by the Master of Arts in the field of Chinese Language and Literature and the Master of Arts in the field of Chinese Historical Studies. The mode of teaching is mainly through lectures. The method of assessment depends on the respective programme and generally is 100% by coursework, and the total number of words in writing assignment is 5,000 characters in Chinese. The mode of teaching is usually a 2-contact-hour lecture. The total number of contact hours is 24, consisting of 2 hours of lectures in each of 12 weeks. The total number of student learning hours is 120 to 180.

4. Capstone experience (12 credits)

The capstone experience course is designed develop students' independent research ability in writing an MA academic paper or producing a media project on Hong Kong Cultural Studies under the supervision of a teacher. The total contact hours is in the range of 11 to 16 hours, of which three 2-hour lectures are offered to train students' research skills and at least 5 consultations should be made between the supervisor and the student. The total number of student learning hours is 240–360 for selecting a research scope and topic, studying relevant materials, consulting with the supervisor, and writing up the dissertation or an analysis of media production. The assessment is 100% by coursework. Students are expected to produce an original academic paper or an analysis of media project with the length of 7,000 words and 5,000 words in English respectively. For the latter option, the student is required to submit a 8-10 minute media production (including but not limited to, documentaries, experimental film and new media projects). The type of the media production is based on the student's choice and the supervisor's expertise.