

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF ARTS

Master of Arts in the field of Hong Kong History

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The Master of Arts (MA) Programme in the field of Hong Kong History consists of five types of courses which are taught using various learning modes. Following HKU guidelines, the normal time requirement for 6-credit courses is 120 hours of student learning activity, including both contact hours and all other forms of learning activity. The normal requirement in terms of hours for 9-credit courses is 180 hours of student learning activity including contact hours and all other learning activities. 6-credit courses normally include 24-30 contact hours. 9-credit courses normally include 30 contact hours. Contact hours are minimal for 12-credit courses, because students do independent research work for their dissertations under the guidance of a supervisor. The programme has a total study load of 1,200 hours, of which 171 to 186 are contact hours. All courses have 100% coursework assessment. The five categories of History courses may be summarised as follows:

1. *Survey courses* (6 credits)

These courses are cross-listed with upper-level undergraduate courses open to undergraduate students in their third and fourth years. 3000-level courses combine seminar and lecture discussion, while 4000-level courses are based on seminar or workshop type learning activities. Assessment methods are left up to individual teachers but will normally include the writing of essays, reports and in-class tests totalling not more than 6,000 words and the total number of student learning hours is 120.

2. *Seminar courses* (6 credits)

These courses are cross-listed with upper-level undergraduate courses open to undergraduate students in their third and fourth years. Most are 4000-level courses based on seminar or workshop type learning activities. 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 seminars and/or tutorials with a heavy emphasis on private reading and research. Assessment is by various methods including essays, research reports, seminar reports, journals, portfolios, and seminar presentations totalling not more than 6,000 words. The total number of student learning hours is 120.

3. *Research courses* (6 credits)

These courses are cross-listed with upper-level undergraduate courses open to undergraduate students in their third and fourth years. Most are 3000 or 4000-level courses based on tutorial, seminar, or workshop-type learning activities. 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 (not more than 5,000 words). The total number of student learning hours is 120.

4. *Seminar courses* (9 credits)

These are dedicated MA courses and are not open to undergraduate students. All are taught as seminars, though there may be workshop or experiential learning components. Assessment for the required MA core course may include participation, essays, reports, draft proposals, reflective exercises, and presentations. The total output is not more than 8,000 words and the total number of student learning hours is 180.

5. *Research Course: capstone experience* (12 credits)

This is an MA dissertation course providing students with an opportunity to pursue their own research interests and to produce a dissertation based upon original research, analysis and argument 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 the dissertation (which is not more than 10,000 words). The total number of student learning hours is 240.