

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF ARTS

Master of Arts in the field of Literary and Cultural Studies

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The Master of Arts in the field of Literary and Cultural Studies curriculum consists of a core course, six elective courses and a capstone experience (Dissertation or Portfolio/Individual Project). The core course is a 9-credit course; all of the elective courses are 6-credit courses. A range of 180-270 hours of student learning, which includes all learning activities and experiences both within and outside the classroom, and any assessment tasks (including associated preparations), is the norm for a 9-credit course; a range of 120-180 hours of student learning is the norm for a 6-credit course. The curriculum has a minimum total study load of 1,200 hours, of which a minimum of 249 hours are contact hours.

1. Core Course (9 credits)

This core course is compulsory for all students in the Fall Semester of their first year. This course introduces literary and cultural approaches and examines critical perspectives in the study of texts and cultures of capitalism in a global context. Contact hours are in a range of 39-45 hours. Teaching combines lectures, discussion, writing workshops, consultation sessions and screenings with a heavy emphasis on reading and writing. Assessment is continuous by writing assignments which include weekly responses, short paper and term paper with a total output of around 6,000 words. In addition, students are obliged to attend essay writing workshops which also require significant amount of writing.

2. Elective Courses (6 credits)

All the electives are 6-credit courses. Contact hours are in a range of 33-39 hours. Teaching usually consists of lectures, discussion, consultation, screening and/or presentation. Assessment is continuous by writing essays, weekly responses and/or creative project and presentation. As a general guideline, regardless of the teaching method used, the total output should be around 4,000 words.

3. Capstone Experience (15 credits)

Students who have received a B grade (3.0 grade point) or above in 4 or more courses, and with the approval by the Chairperson of the Committee for the MA in Literary and Cultural Studies, may choose to do 1) a dissertation of approximately 10,000 words or 2) an individual

project – an approved creative work under supervision and a written report of around 5,000 words as partial fulfilment of the requirements for the MA degree. Students who opt for dissertation writing must take the elective “CLIT7012 Dissertation Seminar”. Students who opt for portfolio and individual project must take another elective course in lieu of CLIT7012 and must attend special sessions and/or workshops.

All students have the option to compile a portfolio of coursework for the MA curriculum. Students choosing the Portfolio option are required to revise at least two previous MALCS papers into a final paper of approximately 10,000 words.

Dissertation involves 360 hours of learning activities which include research, writing workshops, dissertation writing as well as regular supervision, emails and feedback on draft materials. Contact hours are minimal (12-24 hours) because students do independent research work under the guidance of a supervisor.

Students choosing the Individual Project option will produce an approved creative work under supervision. After completing the Creative Project, students will submit a written report of around 5,000 words of the project. The essential components of the written reports are: description of the ideas, practice, theory and context of the process and the result; critical reflections on the students’ experience in the process, new understanding of the project’s relationship to the academic study, and any further observations/insights related to the project.

The Portfolio/Individual Project involves 300 hours of learning activities which include mini-lectures, research, library workshop, writing workshops as well as regular supervision, emails and feedback on draft materials. Contact hours are minimal (12-24 hours) because students do independent research work under the guidance of a supervisor.