

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**

**CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT**

**Master of Social Sciences in the field of Criminology**

The Master of Social Sciences in the field of Criminology programme consists of three different types of courses which are taught using distinctive learning modes. All courses are 6-credit courses. Although we use 150 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours of around 30-39 hours and all other forms of student learning activity) as the norm for a 6-credit course, the contact hours and output requirements for different types of courses vary according to the learning modes employed. The total study load of the Master of Social Sciences (Criminology) programme is around 1,500 hours.

1. *Compulsory disciplinary courses (6 credits)*

The Master of Social Sciences in the field of Criminology programme requires four 6-credit courses as compulsory courses. Teaching normally takes the form of a 3-hour lecture each week throughout a regular semester. Outputs normally come in a mix of essay, project and presentation, totaling around 4,000-6,000 words, plus in-class test and/or examination (60-100% coursework, 0-40% exam).

2. *Elective disciplinary courses (6 credits)*

The Master of Social Sciences in the field of Criminology programme requires four courses of different kinds of standard 6-credit courses as electives. Teaching normally takes the form of a 3-hour lecture each week throughout a regular semester. Outputs normally come in a mix of essay, project and presentation, totaling around 4,000-6,000 words (100% coursework).

3. *Dissertation (12 credits; equivalent to two 6-credit courses)*

The dissertation course is a component of the Master of Social Sciences in the field of Criminology programme to foster independent research for full-time students and small group research for part-time students on an approved topic under the supervision of a teacher. Students will be in regular consultation meetings with their teacher (12 contact hours), but are expected to spend much of their time on research and writing. Assessment takes the form of a presentation and a written dissertation of not exceeding 20,000 words for individual dissertation and a reasonable length (depending on actual group size) for group dissertation (100% coursework).