

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

These Regulations apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Arts curriculum in the academic year 2024-25 and thereafter.

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

The degree of Master of Arts (MA) is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study in one of the following fields: AI, Ethics and Society; Art History; Chinese Historical Studies; Chinese Language and Literature; Creative Communications; English Studies; Hong Kong History; Linguistics; Literary and Cultural Studies; Museum Studies; Music Studies; Philosophy, Politics and Economics; and Translation. These fields of study will not necessarily be offered every year.

MA 1 Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Arts, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;¹
- (b) shall comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (c) shall hold
 - (i) a Bachelor's degree of this University; or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
 - (ii) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of AI, Ethics and Society, a Bachelor's degree with a major in philosophy; or a Bachelor's degree with a major in another subject with experience of studying issues relevant to AI, Ethics and Society;
 - (iii) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Art History, either a Bachelor's degree with a major in art history; or a Bachelor's degree in another subject and substantial art-related experience;

¹ In addition to the admission requirement specified in General Regulation G 2, the Faculty also requires:

- (a) TOEFL : a Test of Written English (TWE) score of 4 or above or a Writing score of 25 or above in the internet-based TOEFL (not applicable to the MA in the field of Chinese Historical Studies); or
- (b) IELTS : (i) a minimum overall Band of 7 with no subtest lower than 5.5 (not applicable to the MA in the fields of Chinese Historical Studies and Translation);
(ii) a minimum overall Band of 7 with no subtest lower than 6 (applicable to the MA in the field of Translation).

- (iv) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Chinese Language and Literature, a Bachelor's degree with a major in Chinese or a closely related subject;
 - (v) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of English Studies, a Bachelor's degree with a major in English or a closely related subject;
 - (vi) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Hong Kong History, a Bachelor's degree with a major in history; or a Bachelor's degree with a major in another subject with experience of studying history;
 - (vii) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Linguistics, a Bachelor's degree with a major in Linguistics or a closely related subject;
 - (viii) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Museum Studies, a Bachelor's degree with a major in museum studies or art history; or a closely related subject;
 - (ix) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Music Studies, a Bachelor's degree with a major in music; or a Bachelor's degree with a major in another subject with experience studying music;
 - (x) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Philosophy, Politics and Economics, a Bachelor's degree with major in Philosophy, Politics and Economics; or a Bachelor's degree with a major in another subject with experience studying either subject;
 - (xi) in respect of the courses of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of Translation, a professional qualification deemed to be equivalent to a Bachelor's degree; and
- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.
-

MA 2 Qualifying examination

- (a) A qualifying examination and/or interview may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or their ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report.
 - (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination and/or interview shall not be permitted to register unless they have satisfied the examiners in the examination and/or interview.
-

MA 3 Award of degree

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Arts, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) shall comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
- (c) shall complete the curriculum as prescribed in the syllabuses and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.

MA 4 Period of study

- (a) The curriculum shall normally extend
 - (i) in the fields of Art History, Creative Communications, Linguistics, Museum Studies, and Music Studies, over one academic year of full-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years;
 - (ii) in the fields of Chinese Historical Studies, Chinese Language and Literature and Translation, over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or four academic years of part-time study; and
 - (iii) in the fields of AI, Ethics and Society, English Studies, Hong Kong History, Literary and Cultural Studies, and Philosophy, Politics and Economics over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study.
- (b) Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration specified in MA 4(a), unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

MA 5 Completion of curriculum

To complete the curriculum, candidates

- (a) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work;
- (c) shall complete and present a satisfactory capstone experience on a subject within their fields of study;
- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of assessment as prescribed in the syllabuses; and
- (e) shall satisfy the examiners in an oral examination if required.

MA 6 Advanced standing

Advanced Standing may be granted to candidates in the field of Translation in recognition of studies completed successfully before admission to the curriculum. Candidates who are awarded Advanced Standing will not be granted any further credit transfer for those studies for which Advanced Standing has been granted. The number of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing shall be determined by the Board of the Faculty, in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) a candidate may be granted a total of not more than 20% of the total credits normally required under a curriculum for Advanced Standing unless otherwise approved by the Senate;

- (b) application for Advanced Standing will only be considered if the previous studies were done within 5 years before admission to the curriculum;
 - (c) Advanced Standing will not be granted for elective course and capstone experience; and
 - (d) credits granted for Advanced Standing shall not normally be included in the calculation of the GPA unless permitted by the Board of the Faculty but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.
-

MA 7 Capstone experience

Subject to the provisions of Regulation MA 5(c), the title of the capstone experience (dissertation, portfolio or individual project) shall be submitted for approval by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses for each field of study. Similarly, the capstone experience shall be presented by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses for each field of study. Candidates shall submit a statement that the capstone experience represents their own work (or in the case of conjoint work, a statement countersigned by their co-worker(s), which shows their share of the work) undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

MA 8 Assessment

- (a) The assessment for each course shall be as specified in the syllabuses. Only passed courses will earn credits. Grades in all fields of study shall be awarded in accordance with TPG 9(a) or TPG 9(b) of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula.
- (b) Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners on the first attempt in not more than two courses, excluding the capstone experience, in an academic year may be permitted to
 - (i) present themselves for re-examination in the failed course(s) on a specified date or re-submit their work for the failed course(s) for re-assessment within a specified period determined by the Board of Examiners for Taught Postgraduate Curricula, but no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
 - (ii) repeat the failed course(s) by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessment requirements; or
 - (iii) for elective courses, take another course in lieu and satisfy the assessment requirements.
- (c) Subject to the provisions of Regulation MA 5(c), candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory capstone experience may be permitted to revise and re-present the capstone experience within a specified period determined by the Board of Examiners for Taught Postgraduate Curricula.
- (d) Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in the final review in the field of English Studies may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination on a specified date determined by the Board of Examiners for Taught Postgraduate Curricula, but no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester).

- (e) There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.
-

MA 9 Discontinuation

Candidates who

- (a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-examination/re-submission in any written examination or coursework assessment in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners or to repeat the failed course(s); or
- (b) are not permitted to revise and re-present the capstone experience; or
- (c) have failed to satisfy the examiners on second attempt in any coursework assessment, examination, or the capstone experience; or
- (d) have failed more than two courses, excluding the capstone experience, on the first attempt in an academic year; or
- (e) have exceeded the maximum period of registration as specified in MA 4

may be required to discontinue their studies under the provisions of General Regulation G 12.

MA 10 Assessment results

On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

CHINESE HISTORICAL STUDIES

These Syllabuses apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Arts in the field of Chinese Historical Studies curriculum in the academic year 2024-25 and thereafter.

PURPOSE

The MA in the field of Chinese Historical Studies curriculum aims at providing students with the requisite knowledge and training to conduct scholarly research in Chinese history. It also caters for the continuing education needs of secondary school teachers and enthusiasts of Chinese history and culture.

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

The curriculum includes several semester-length courses in Chinese historical materials and methodology, Chinese historiography, and various topics related to the history and culture of imperial, modern and contemporary China.

Students in this curriculum are required to complete eight courses (2 core and 6 elective) and a capstone course. Students are required to take at least two out of the three core courses. The third core course is optional and can be taken as an elective. Coursework teaching is held from September until April of the academic year. There are usually four sessions of two contact hours per week for full-time students and two to three sessions of two contact hours per week for part-time students.

At least ten courses will be selected from the following categories and be taught in each cycle.

Core Courses

CHIN7017. Twentieth-Century China: Thematic Studies (6 credits)

This course examines the political, social and economic development of China in the twentieth century. Special attention is given to the themes of nationalism, revolution and modernization. It aims to show how present-day China has evolved from its recent past.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7020. Imperial China: Early to Medieval Dynasties (6 credits)

This course examines the political development of successive dynasties from Early to Medieval China and their significance in the overall context of Chinese history. Major institutional establishments and cultural achievements of different historical periods will also be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7021. Imperial China: Middle Period to Qing (6 credits)

This course examines the political development of successive dynasties from Middle-Period to Late Imperial China and their significance in the overall context of Chinese history. Major institutional establishments and cultural achievements of different historical periods will also be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective Courses

A. History

CHIN6011. Education and Examination: the Chinese Experience (6 credits)

This course examines the history of the Chinese education and examination systems, surveys the changing thoughts about the relation of education, examination and talent nurturing, analyses the impacts of education and examination on politics, economics and society, and critically assesses the roles played by Western education and examination models in the modernization of China.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN6012. Chinese Migration History: Inland and Overseas (6 credits)

This course examines the migration history of Chinese from ancient times to early twentieth century. Topics discussed include the backgrounds and motives of the migrants, the routes they took, their destinations, and their adaptations to their new homes. Special attention will be given to the emigrants of Qing China, their continuous conflicts with local residents, and how the problems they faced and the solutions they adopted reflect certain features of Chinese culture.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7002. Chinese Historiography (6 credits)

This course provides a broad and systematic overview of the origins and development of Chinese historiography. It examines in detail the teachings of leading Chinese historians and historiographers, both ancient and modern.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7005. New Approaches to Chinese History (6 credits)

This course attempts to explore the new research approaches and trends in Chinese history studies, especially after the rise of the “China-centered” approach in the US in the 1980s. Apart from assessing the academic achievements of the mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong, East Asia and the West, it also evaluates the roles and limitations of social theories and methods in Chinese historical studies. Scholars with different research interests and expertise will be invited to share their experience with the students in the lectures.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7006. An Introduction to Documentary and Archival Sources in Chinese (6 credits)

This course will appeal not only to students majoring in Chinese history but to students looking to incorporate Chinese sources into their research. Both academic knowledge and practical skills are emphasized across the course curriculum. The academic knowledge

imparted ranges from explanations of the classification and circulation of traditional Chinese documents to an introduction to the ideas of noted bibliographers and archivists [or big data and digital humanities], the special features of major overseas Chinese collections and the latest research output on documentary and archival sources in Chinese published by foreign scholars. In addition to demonstrating how to search different kinds of documentary and archival resources, including Internet resources, the practical skills delivered include the ability to read primary historical documents. Students are also presented with case studies elaborating the use of documentary and archival sources in pursuit of historical research.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7008. Intellectual History of Pre-Qin China (6 credits)

This course investigates the origin and development of the pre-Qin Chinese thought. With an understanding of the contents and development of the pre-Qin Chinese thought, students can acquire a solid background in Chinese intellectual history and thereby can decipher the intellectual and cultural foundation behind the historical developments of China thereafter. The bulk of the course will be about the various schools of thought of the Eastern Zhou period. The course will center upon the four major pre-Qin schools of thought: Confucianism, Mohism, Daoism and Legalism. As a supplement, other minor schools of thought will also be covered.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7011. History education: the Chinese Experience (6 credits)

This course provides a broad and systematic overview of the origins and development of history education from ancient time to the present in China. It examines in detail the changing thoughts about history education and analyses the impacts of history education on different aspects of the society.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7012. The Historical Geography of China (6 credits)

This course is about historical geography of China. Imperial China was a big country with a vast territory. The highly diverse and complex terrain divided the country into many regions with different developments. The terrain characteristics also significantly influenced the decision on the selection of location for the capital and the administrative district planning in all dynasties. Besides, climate change was another major factor affecting agricultural activity, people's livelihood and also political stability. This course will review the influence of geography on political and economic developments in Imperial China. With an understanding of the above contents, students can understand the importance of the geographic factors in Chinese History.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7013. Hong Kong since 1842 (6 credits)

The aim of this course is to equip students with necessary knowledge on, and enhance their ability to pursue research on, the history of Hong Kong from the mid-19th to late-20th centuries. Political, diplomatic, social, cultural, educational and religious issues are introduced, and their interrelated connections discussed, from the historical perspective. Emphasis is placed on training students in the reading of first-hand Chinese historical sources.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7014. History of Women and Gender in China (6 credits)

This course investigates the roles and history of women, and gender practices in China, from the pre-imperial period to contemporary time. The social and cultural practices in relation to women, and the gender norms of different periods and dynasties will be examined. Factors contributing to the differential gender practices, as well as the significance and impacts of such practices on China will also be studied.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7015. China and the World: A History (6 credits)

This course examines the interactions and mutual relationships of China and different parts of the world across the long history of China. The social, cultural, technological and other impacts of such interactions on China and the world, and their significance will also be investigated.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7022. Court and Palace: Power and Intrigue in Imperial China (6 credits)

The subject aims at introducing students to the two core elements in politics, namely power and intrigue, which led to coups, purges and mutinies that marked the darkest side of politics in imperial China. It is widely spread by popular movies and TV series nowadays that most of these tragedies were in fact taken place inside and outside the palaces and courts of imperial China in the past 2000 years. In this regards, the subject also aims at helping the students to know how to distinguish between history and literature of the topics such as court politics and intrigues.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7023. Film and Chinese History (6 credits)

This course aims at discovering Chinese history in the modern period through film. Rather than treating film uncritically as a transparent medium, this course is premised upon the idea that film can be employed to document, investigate and shape reality. Students will proceed chronologically to cover the major periods of modern Chinese history and examine significant historical issues that have emerged in this century and the last.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7024. Representing War in China (6 credits)

War has an enduring impact on human civilizations. By dint of luck, many of us manage to avoid direct contact with it and yet we learn about its many faces through various means. This course will begin with a contemplation of how war has affected the development of human history, to be followed by an exploration of the way different wars in China are represented with due attention paid to the historical context in which they occur.

Assessment: 100% coursework

B. Culture**CHIN6301. Special Topics in Confucian Classics (6 credits)**

The course focuses on two or more of the following Confucian classics, namely *Shijing* (*Book of Songs*), *Shangshu* (*Book of Documents*), *Liji* (*Book of Rites*), *Zhouyi* (*Book of Changes*), *Chunqiu* (*Spring and Autumn Annals*), *Zuozhuan*, *Lun Yu* (*Analects*), and *Mengzi*, examining the philological and documentation issues through an in-depth study of the original texts and major commentaries. The relationship between the Confucius and these canons as well as their significance to Chinese culture will also be investigated.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7009. Traditional Chinese Thought and Its Modern Transformation (6 credits)

This course attempts to explore the characteristics of traditional Chinese thought, and investigate how it underwent a modern transformation in a period of rapid change in the nineteenth century. The course will analyze how the pre-modern Chinese mode of thinking in the political, economic, and social aspects was dominated by Confucianism and later Neo-Confucianism, and how it eventually transformed itself into the modern times under the challenges of Western learning in the late Qing. In addition, the contemporary meanings of those traditional ideas nowadays shared by the Chinese will also be discussed in the lectures.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7010. Modern Chinese Intellectual Trends and Intellectuals (6 credits)

This course explores the intellectual and cultural trends and the thoughts of the leading Chinese intellectuals in twentieth-century China. It is divided into two parts. The first part examines the intellectual fermentation from the late Qing to the Republican periods. The second part analyzes the thoughts of the intellectuals under the domination of Communist ideology from 1949 to the reform era. It covers the establishment of a modern education system modelled upon the West, the decline of traditional Confucian culture, Chinese elite and their thoughts after the May Fourth Movement, and the intellectual development under the Communist rule. Some best-known historical figures will be selected for case study.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7016. Special Topics in Chinese Religions (6 credits)

Religions and their practices in China, whether of imperial era, or of contemporary time, will be studied. The emphasis is on the unique features of Chinese religions and their practices, and their relationship with Chinese culture, society, and history.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7018. Chinese Food Culture (6 credits)

This course aims to showcase the long and prosperous history of Chinese dietary culture and its multifarious roles in Chinese society past and present. The exemplifications and impacts of Chinese dietary culture will be examined through various thematic topics. The role of food items like tea, wine, salt, and sugar in Chinese life and society will be investigated. Topics such as the relations of food and drink with politics, economy, literature, and social life, the origins of various food and drink, and the contribution of ethnic minorities will also be studied.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7019. Understanding Chinese Culture: Fieldwork and Site Visit (6 credits)

Through a variety of group and individual visits to sites of historical significance, students will be able to adopt a local perspective to learn about Chinese culture more broadly. Hong Kong in particular offers a broad range of possibilities for this course, including religious, architectural, communal, artistic, and archaeological sites. Most activities will be arranged in the form of group visits, but students will also be asked to take advantage of the abundance of cultural heritage in Hong Kong to explore certain sites on their own. If conditions allow, students may also visit sites outside of Hong Kong.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7115. Topics in Hong Kong Culture (6 credits)

This is a special topic course with each offering focusing on a selected topic within the studies of Hong Kong culture. The particular topic will vary, but the intent of the study will be to develop a critical awareness of the complex dynamics which have shaped Hong Kong culture. Due to its unique history, Hong Kong has developed highly original forms of culture which are theoretically significant. This course provides students with a working knowledge of key concepts of a selected topic in the field of Hong Kong culture such as cinema and popular music. Students are encouraged to explore actual research issues and consider their theoretical thrust from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7025. Chinese Customs and Rituals (6 credits)

Customs and rituals capture the ways human beings interact with each other. In the case of rites of passage and seasonal observances, they reveal human beings' perceptions of their positions vis-a-vis the larger life-cycle observable in nature. Even though they vary across time and space, customs and rituals perform a cohesive social function that brings together people living in areas that have come under the influence of the same culture. This subject will introduce students to the differences in customs and rituals in the major geographical regions and dialect communities in China, document the process of their transformation over time and space, and relate them to Chinese religious beliefs and cultural values. Students will thereby come to appreciate the practices and significance of these social gestures that form part of their daily life.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Capstone Experience**CHIN7993. Capstone Experience: Portfolio (12 credits)**

Students are required to revise at least two previous MA papers into a portfolio of at least 20,000 characters in Chinese or 10,000 words in English. The portfolio piece will allow students to develop their skills in argumentation, writing, evaluating evidence, and to develop fluency in the conventions of academic form.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7999. Capstone Experience: Dissertation in Chinese Historical Studies (12 credits)

The dissertation should normally be at least 20,000 characters in Chinese or 10,000 words in English. It should be submitted by the prescribed deadline in the first (full-time) or second year (part-time) of study. A supervisor will be assigned to each candidate.

Pre-requisite: CHIN7005 New Approaches to Chinese History, or CHIN7006 An Introduction to Documentary and Archival Sources in Chinese

Assessment: 100% coursework

Assessments

Courses are assessed by coursework as specified in the descriptions of individual courses. Coursework assessment is based on essays, term papers, projects, tests, or other kinds of oral or written work as prescribed by the course instructors.

Medium of Instruction

Courses will be generally conducted in Cantonese or Putonghua but a number of them may be taught in English.

version: Oct 8, 2024