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;
   (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

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).
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) 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 LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
These Syllabuses apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Arts in the field of Chinese Language and Literature curriculum in the academic year 2021-22 and thereafter.

PURPOSE

The curriculum aims to explore topics of interest in the field of Chinese Studies, to familiarize students with the latest trends in and the methodological approaches to the study of Chinese Language and Chinese Literature and to prepare them to engage in independent scholarly activities by honing their research and presentation skills.

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

Students in this curriculum are required to complete 8 elective courses and a capstone experience (dissertation or individual project), i.e. to complete 60 credits. The curriculum can be studied in full-time or in part-time mode. Full-time students are required to complete all credits in 2 consecutive semesters in one academic year. Teaching and assessment are held from September until August of the same academic year. Part-time students are required to complete all credits in 4 consecutive semesters in two academic years. Teaching and assessment are held from September of the first academic year until August of the second academic year. There is one session of two contact hours per week for each elective course.

ELECTIVES

Elective courses will be selected from the following 4 categories and be offered in each cycle.

A  Chinese Language

CHIN6101.  Special Topics in Chinese Etymology (6 credits)

This course aims to deepen and consolidate students’ knowledge of Chinese etymology through revisiting the ancient Chinese writing system in multiple dimensions. Students will be guided to examine the essential features of the ancient Chinese characters and investigate their process of evolution from a historical aspect. An extensive exploration of the recently excavated paleographic sources will also be conducted. Students will discuss various significant issues in the studies of early Chinese history and culture in connection with the latest findings from the excavated sources.
Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN6104.  Special Topics in Ancient Chinese (6 credits)

Ancient Chinese is a written form of the classical language used by the Han nationality. This course will provide students with a comprehensive introduction to a broad range of significant topics and issues in the research of ancient Chinese. Research areas highlighted in the course will include Chinese lexicology, semantics, grammar, exegetics, and etymology. Aside from synchronic discussions on the language, this course places particular focus on a diachronic analysis of the language characteristics as revealed by sources from different historical periods, aiming to explore and examine the internal principles and rules governing the language development and changes. After completing this course, students are expected to have profound understanding on the language system of ancient Chinese, enabling them to enhance their capability in reading classical Chinese texts and lay a solid foundation for further research in Chinese philology and linguistics.
Assessment: 100% coursework
CHIN6105. Special Topics in Modern Chinese (6 credits)

This course introduces and examines a number of special topics in modern Chinese. The selected topics, including the characteristics of Chinese language, ambiguity in modern Chinese, and Chinese language, society and culture, will be comprehensively discussed from various perspectives including etymology, grammar, lexicology, pragmatics and rhetoric. Issues like the special features and common features of modern Chinese, the overlapping of linguistic form and meaning, the mutual relationship and interaction between Chinese language and society/culture, and the development and usage of modern Chinese are explored and analyzed with relevant examples. After completion of this course, students will have a concrete and in-depth understanding of the characteristics, usage, and social and cultural embodiment of modern Chinese.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7102. Studies in Cantonese (6 credits)

Cantonese, being a language with a long history, has close relationship with ancient Chinese language and a few minority languages. Modern Cantonese is thus different from Modern Standard Chinese and other Chinese dialects in phonological, lexical and syntactic aspects. Based on a fundamental understanding of the history of Yue dialects, a number of issues in Cantonese concerning its pronunciation, written forms, cultural elements as well as its application in modern society will be discussed in this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7110. Topics in Chinese Dialectology and Historical Linguistics (6 credits)

This course will examine selected issues in the description and history of the Chinese dialects. Topics will focus on how comparative description is used to uncover clues to dialect relationship and historical development, as well as the sociolinguistics of the dialects in relationship to each other and to Mandarin in historical times. Special attention will also be paid to questions of how social history, geography, and population movement affect dialect history and linguistic evolution.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7111. Theory and Practice: Frontiers in Chinese Lexicology (6 credits)

Chinese lexicography is a discipline that studies the origin, development, construction, composition, classification, developmental changes and norms of Chinese vocabulary. This course systematically introduces the branches of Chinese lexical research, the status of Chinese lexical research in Chinese linguistics, and its relationship with exegesis through several major sections with examples. This course thereby introduces the current research status and expansion space of some major branches of Chinese lexical research, including Chinese historical lexical research, modern Chinese lexical research, Chinese cultural lexical research, Chinese lexical research of language contact, and Chinese as a second language lexical research. It can enhance students’ ability to use Chinese vocabulary and apply Chinese lexical theory.

Assessment: 100% coursework

B Chinese Literature

CHIN6201. Special Topics in Classical Poetry (6 credits)
The course introduces and examines classical poetry written by two or more of the prominent Tang and Song poets, such as Meng Haoran, Wang Wei, Li Bai, Du Fu, Bai Juyi, Du Mu, Li Shangyin, Huang Tingjian, Su Shi, and Lu You. The forms and prosody of ancient-style poetry (gu-ti shi) and modern-style poetry (jin-ti shi) will be discussed. The themes, styles and reception of the representative shi poetry will also be thoroughly analyzed.
Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN6202. Special Topics in ci and qu Verse (6 credits)
This course examines the genre of ci and qu. Both of them are supposedly composed for singing or performing and undergo the transformation from folk literature to elite literature. The first part of this course focuses on the development of ci from Tang to Qing period. The second part explores the rich theatrical traditions flourishing during the Yuan, Ming, and Qing periods. Through a close reading of selected works taken from the most representative and major writers, this course will guide the students to investigate fundamental topics concerning these two genres, such as origins, generic features, forms and styles, as well as the interplay between popular culture and elite literature, the relationship between the text and the stage, etc. Students will be introduced to the diverse research approaches in the fields and be expected to engage with the current scholarly discussion.
Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN6203. Special Topics in Ancient Prose (6 credits)
The course introduces and examines the masterpieces of prose written by two or more prominent prose writers in the Tang and Song dynasties, such as Han Yu, Liu Zongyuan, Ouyang Xiu, Su Shi, Wang Anshi, Zeng Gong. Through a critical appreciation and detailed analysis of representative pieces of work by these masters, students are expected to be able to interpret and appreciate traditional Chinese prose and to have a sound knowledge of their significance to Chinese literary history.
Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN6208. Special Topics in Modern and Contemporary Literature (6 credits)
This course will introduce and examine special topics in modern and contemporary literature in Chinese with emphasis on historical and cultural context, artistic achievement, as well as the influence of western thoughts. Selected works will be analyzed and commented with reference to literary theories and background contexts. A series of topics including the complicated relationship between Chinese literature and politics in the twentieth century, the evolution of realism and development of modernism, Romanticism, and New Historicism, will be discussed. The objectives of this course are to initiate critical discussion of writers, works and literature phenomena of modern and contemporary literature that arouse students’ attention to the particularities and development of Chinese literature, and to develop students’ analyzing ability.
Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN6209. Studies in Literary Creation (6 credits)
This course aims to cultivate students to produce original works of two or more of the following genres of writing, namely modern poem, prose, fiction, and drama. The development, artistic features, and writing skills of the genres will be introduced, and selected works of representative writers will be closely examined.
Assessment: 100% coursework
CHIN7105.  **Studies in Classical Chinese Fiction (6 credits)**

This course offers an in-depth survey of classical Chinese fiction. Through an overview of its origin and evolution, the characteristics, content and artistic merit of classical Chinese fiction in various historical periods will be analyzed. Selected topics in and representative pieces of traditional Chinese fictional narratives, including Wei-Jin biji novels (literary sketches), Tang chuanqi (short tales), Song and Yuan huaben (script for storytelling), Ming and Qing nihuaben (short novels written in the style of scripts for storytelling), zhanghui novels (novels in chapter format) and short novels, will be deeply examined with attention to traditional and recent scholarship so as to familiarize students with the development, defining characteristics as well as the current status of research of classical Chinese fiction.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7108.  **Topical Studies of Chinese Women’s Literature (6 credits)**

Studies of Chinese women’s literature have drawn increasing scholarly attention and opened up new lines of inquiry in recent decades. This course provides a sequential study of female writers from the Pre-Qin period to the modern era, with emphasis on the shi and ci poetry by poetesses. For a thorough understanding and appreciation of their works, the course includes an in-depth exploration of their lives in the respective historical settings. The course is designed to help students develop longitudinally a full picture of the literature by Chinese women through the ages and equip them with techniques to properly conduct research based on the limited official records and biographical materials available.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7112.  **Love, Sex, and Gender in Traditional Chinese Popular Literature (6 credits)**

Themes of love, sex, and gender are prominent in the world of popular literature and are key ways in which literature participates in the social life of its time and place. This course aims to provide an understanding of these historical relationships and their importance for Chinese literature more generally. Reading and analysis will focus on selections from fiction, drama, folk literature, and songbooks from the Ming and Qing and their comparison will form the basis for discussion of the key themes in the light of changing values, morality and class relations in late imperial Chinese society.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7113.  **Topics in Sinophone Studies (6 credits)**

This course explores various important issues in modern and contemporary Sinophone works from Taiwan and the Chinese Diaspora. It first introduces the Sinophone framework and key theories relevant to the studies of modern Chinese-language literature. It then looks at certain topics, such as modernism, women’s literature, ethnicity, gender, and the literary linkage between different Sinophone locales. While case studies will be drawn primarily from Taiwan, literary works from other Sinophone locales will be brought in for reference and comparison.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CHIN7114.  **Topical Studies of Hong Kong Literature (6 credits)**

This course introduces students with the development of Hong Kong literature beginning in the early twentieth century to the early twentieth-first century through representative writers and their works,
mainly in fiction, prose, and poetry. The selected works will be read closely, with a particular emphasis on their cultural, political, and historical contexts. The cultural production of Hong Kong in different historical periods will also be highlighted to increase the students’ understanding of the literary links between Hong Kong, Mainland China, and the rest of the world. In additional to the fundamental knowledge of Hong Kong literature, related conceptual and cultural issues in Hong Kong literature, such as identity formation and spatial writing will be examined in this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework

C Chinese 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), Zuo zhuan, 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

CHIN6304. Special Topics in Chinese Culture (6 credits)

This course comprises two parts. The first part will examine and analyze traditional Chinese culture in different dimensions, including political, religious, ethnic, social, etc. Selected topics will be investigated and discussed, such as the reasons why autocracy appeared to become a long-term political policy after unity of dynastic China in 221 BC, the Chinese folk beliefs and personification of folk gods and goddess, China’s continuous communication with ethnic minorities and the interchange of material and cultural civilization, and the influences of orthodox theories and Confucianism on gender equality, female status and power, chastity concept, and homosexuality. The second part of this course is an in-depth study in Chinese culture by looking into humble and tangible topics such as practices in cuisine, imagery, hunting, inheritance and various other customs. Observing the customary practices by common people yields more perspectives. The discussed topics can map the transformation of traditional and mainstream Chinese culture in face of challenges from Chinese regional, foreign and modern cultures.

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, 7 other minor schools of thought will also be covered.

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

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**CHIN7109. Exploring Chinese Culture: Field Study (6 credits)**

This course consists of lectures lasting four to six weeks and fieldwork study. It is designed to explore the characteristics and development of Chinese culture in respect of language, literature, history, art, architecture, folklore, etc., with selected focus topics for further in-depth investigation. Students will be arranged to conduct field study either in Hong Kong or in a region selected among the geographical areas of Mainland China, Macau, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, etc. After completing the lectures and fieldwork, students are required to submit a written report or an audio-visual report as an assignment.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**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

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**Seminar**

**CHIN7107. Seminar: Special Topics in Chinese Language, Literature and Culture (6 credits)**

This seminar course will be undertaken as a series of lectures with topics specified in the field of Chinese language, literature and culture. Guest speakers of different areas of expertise will be invited to give an overview of the latest research in different topics. Students will raise questions on the topics concerned and share their views with their peers and the guest speakers. They will be required to submit their feedback, in the form of written report, to 2-3 chosen topics.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE**

**CHIN7994. Capstone Experience: Individual Project in Chinese Language and Literature (12 credits)**

Students must attend lectures designated for introducing methodology, skills of raising an academic issue or setting a topic for discussion in the field of Chinese language and literature as well as the organization and presentation of findings or personal viewpoints. They will be requested to raise an issue and give a topical presentation in a seminar or symposium held by the programme, alongside with a summary in written form of not less than 1,000 characters in Chinese, on their findings for comment, discussion, and interchange of ideas and information with their peers and teachers. Students
should then revise their findings and submit an academic paper of not less than 7,000 characters in Chinese as the final output for assessment. Each student will be assigned an adviser who will provide guidance on their preparation of the verbal presentation and the final output.
Assessment: 100% coursework

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CHIN7995. Capstone Experience: Dissertation in Chinese Language and Literature (12 credits)

Students will each be assigned a dissertation adviser and required to submit a dissertation topic for approval. They meet with their advisers and write their dissertations under one-to-one supervision. The dissertation should be a minimum of 10,000 characters in Chinese or 8,000 words in English.
Assessment: 100% coursework

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Medium of Instruction

Courses will be conducted in Putonghua or Cantonese.