FOR REFERENCE ONLY

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 2020-21 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: Art History, Chinese Historical Studies; Chinese Language and Literature; English Studies; Linguistics; Literary and Cultural Studies; 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 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;
  (iii) 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;
  (iv) 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;
  (v) 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;
  (vi) 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.

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[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 Chinese Historical Studies and the MA in Chinese Language and Literature); and
  (b) IELTS: a minimum overall Band of 7 with no subtest lower than 5.5.

MA 2 Qualifying examination

(a) A qualifying examination 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 shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.

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 field of Art History, 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 two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of four academic years;
    (iii) in the field of English Studies, 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;
    (iv) in the field of Linguistics, over one academic year of full-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years; and
    (v) in the field of Literary and Cultural Studies, 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 amount 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 MA Board of Examiners, 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 MA Board of Examiners.
(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 MA Board of Examiners, 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.

MA 11 Supplementary examination

Candidates who are unable because of illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves for a supplementary examination of the same course. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of absence from any examination. The supplementary examination shall be held at a time to be determined by the MA Board of Examiners. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in the supplementary examination shall be considered as failure on the first attempt.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

ENGLISH STUDIES

These Syllabuses apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Arts in English Studies curriculum in the academic year 2020-21 and thereafter.

The MA in English Studies has a cross-cultural focus and this unique curriculum is designed to take advantage of Hong Kong's historical, geographical and political position. Each course considers different aspects of theories, languages and literatures of cross-cultural exchange especially with respect to East-West, post-colonial and global situations.

The main objective of the curriculum in English Studies is to interrogate, challenge and develop theories of language and literature as critical insight into the contemporary world, and to give expression to this understanding in oral and written assignments, culminating in a capstone experience. To this end, each course involves an appreciation of relevant theories and approaches and armed with these, encourages critical responses to cultural practice in its various representational and linguistic forms, which may include fiction, poetry, film, advertising, travel writing, spoken, written and multimodal discourse. This involves not only an understanding of how English might be used in

different linguistic communities, but also an understanding of important contemporary debates concerning culture, politics, ideology and language.

The MA in English Studies consists of two introductory courses (9 credits each), four seminar courses (6 credits each), and a capstone experience (18 credits) in the form of a final research project and a conference paper. The MA can be studied in full-time or in part-time mode. Part-time candidates will take two parallel courses per semester (12 weeks) over the first three semesters, and complete a final capstone course in the fourth semester. Full-time candidates will take four courses in the first semester, and an additional two courses in the second semester, along with the capstone experience. Four seminars with a literary focus and four with a linguistics focus will be offered every year. While part-time student follow a fixed curriculum with half of their courses in Literature and half in Linguistics, full-time students may choose to take all their seminar courses in one stream if they wish to specialise in either Linguistics or Literature. With at least three courses and the capstone successfully completed in one stream, students' transcripts will indicate the respective specialisation ('MA in English Studies [Literature]', 'MA in English Studies [Linguistics]'). The option to specialise is not offered to part-time students whose transcript will read 'MA in English Studies'. Courses for part-time students will be offered in the evening, while full-time students will take courses during the day and in the evenings. Each session may consist of a lecture, workshop, students' presentations, or other form of in-class learning. Student participation in all courses is required.

Not all elective courses listed below will necessary be offered each year.

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1. Core Courses

ENGL6073. Introduction to Literature and Cross-cultural Theory (9 credits)

The theme of cross-cultural study is implicit in all of the courses in the MA in English Studies. This foundation course prepares students by introducing them to the historical development of literature by studying different authors and genres within diverse cultural contexts. Traditional, western literature will be read alongside other 'national' and world literatures from post-colonial and global contexts to examine the sense of interconnectedness between various genres, movements and time periods. The primary texts will be supported by the work of critics who have tried to formalize cross-cultural relations through particular historical, ethnographic, literary and linguistic studies of cultural interaction. This might include work by Benedict Anderson, Homi Bhabha, Frantz Fanon, Mary Louise Pratt, Edward Said, and others.
Assessment: 100% coursework

ENGL7101. Introduction to Language and Communication (9 credits)

This course introduces students to core research areas within the field of language and communication, with a focus on theories, approaches and applications drawn from sociolinguistics. Contemporary issues such as globalisation, language spread, and bi/multilingualism will be discussed. Key themes addressed in the course include: culture, ideology, identity, language policy, varieties of English, World Englishes and global Englishes. To facilitate introduction to these themes, the course will present students with basic knowledge in linguistics and sociolinguistic theory and approaches, as well as empirical examples drawn from the literature. Based on these insights, students will regularly be encouraged to bring along their own examples of linguistic data, to discuss and interpret in class.
Assessment: 100% coursework

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2. Elective Courses

Linguistics

ENGL6056. Cultural Semiotics (6 credits)

This course will examine culture as a complex web of signifying systems and practices. It will look at different concepts of culture and consider their accessibility to semiotic theory and analysis. After an introduction to semiotic terminology, time will be given to the investigation of different spheres of cultural activity, analysing the meanings of images, bodies, objects, spaces, sounds, etc., and the configurations and practices that underpin them. The interdisciplinary nature of cultural semiotics, its relevance to society and its limitations will also be addressed. The course will focus mostly on aspects of contemporary urban culture as it exists in places like Hong Kong, but attention will also be given to cross-cultural comparisons and intercultural relations.
Assessment: 100% coursework

ENGL6075. The Politics of English (6 credits)

This course examines the contemporary politics of English, looking at debates over local and regional cultural identities, English as the language of modernity and social mobility, English as a "killer language" within linguistic imperialism, cross-cultural discourse and globalization. The historical roots of the rise of English will be traced, and its current world-wide profile analyzed, with special reference to the sharply divergent attitudes found in socio-political debate. Special reference will be made to English in Hong Kong.
Assessment: 100% coursework

ENGL7102. Global Englishes (6 credits)

At the turn of the century, the globalisation of world trade and culture has led to the global spread of English. While the social, political and economic complexities brought about by globalisation have established the contemporary place of English as the world's primary international language, there are some crucial and controversial issues that need critical analysis, particularly as regards the persistent exonormative model of Standard English, non-standard variations in New Englishes or postcolonial Englishes, the emergent variant forms of 'glocal' Englishes in the so-called Expanding Circle, i.e. what is commonly referred to as English as a Lingua Franca (EFL), and 'Translingua Franca English' (TFE) as the fluid social processes that includes all global uses of English. Students in this course will critically examine this polycentric development of English today and the current academic debate on the ideology of Standard English, the discourses of postcolonialism, the relationship between language and power, the attitudes to and the linguistic rights of non-native speakers of English, and the future of English.
Assessment: 100% coursework

ENGL7103. New Media and Discourse (6 credits)

This course offers a contemporary approach to key concepts in mediated communication within the field of language and new media, with a focus on media as language use. With a strong emphasis on the anthropological and social dimensions of mass communication, the course encourages students to consider the ways in which media discourse is different from everyday face-to-face interactions and critically reflect upon the ways in which media technologies extend human language capabilities. Key themes addressed in the course include: the discursive practices and performances that are taking place within the new media environments, the uneven distribution of technology across the globe, ideologies and semiotic resources deployed in (re)producing certain discourses by different social groups, the exploration of the ways in which new media are localised into everyday practices and

performances of social actors in their diverse geographical localities. To facilitate introduction to these themes, the course will present students with a series of theories and approaches drawn from language and media studies. So as to also develop their analytical skills, students will be encouraged to carry out their own investigations, i.e. to complete a personal media and communications audit, then to reflect on what new media mean for them and for accomplishing artful/playful discursive practices and performances.
Assessment: 100% coursework

ENGL7105. Intercultural Communication (6 credits)

The forces of globalization have impacted the social, cultural, political and linguistic aspects of communities around the world. Their effects can be seen in the complexity of communications taking place between speakers from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds. This course presents an overview of relevant concepts, theories and approaches to intercultural communication. We will survey the interdisciplinary sources of inquiry into culture and cultural difference, compare models and approaches to the study of intercultural encounters, and analyze specific examples of intercultural communication using research from diverse, multilingual contexts. The course draws on concepts from a range of disciplines, including communications, sociolinguistics, anthropology, social psychology and organizational communication.
Assessment: 100% coursework

Literature

ENGL6079. World Modernisms (6 credits)

'Modernism', as a movement in literature and the other arts, is traditionally studied in national or regional contexts, predominantly from a Eurocontric perspective. This course will pursue the idea of a "world modernism", by looking at selected works of fiction and visual culture from around the world, between (roughly) 1900 and 1950, written in English or translated into English. How differently do these works respond to modernity, and how do they relate to each other -- by influence, and shared or contrasted preoccupations or procedures -- in the network of "world modernisms"?
Assessment: 100% coursework

ENGL6080. Travel Writing and Culture (6 credits)

Cross-cultural or intercultural issues are necessarily central to most travel writing. This course explores such issues in a wide range of travel narratives by writers from the medieval period to the present day. The approach is more thematic than historical and themes covered will include travel and imperialism, East-West meetings, mapping self and nation, mobilization of knowledge, postcolonial journeys and travels in globality.
Assessment: 100% coursework

ENGL6081. Global Fictions (6 credits)

Since its inception, the novel has maintained a close relationship with nation. A cohesive time-space can be identified where the narrator's point of view and that of an implied reader coincide with the interests of an identifiable country or region. But after cross-cultural journeys and globalization, how strong is the idea of the nation in the public imagination? To what extent is the idea of national belonging weakened, and what kind of transnational affinities are being engendered? Where are the power lines of this transnationalism? Should we be worried about losing the protection of the nation

state? What new possibilities arise for cultural production?

This course explores some of these questions through fictions that emphasise the transnational, moving beyond socio-geographical boundaries of nation. While we will consider how postcolonial, postmodern and world literatures might give rise to global fictions, we will also see if there is evidence of a newly emerging cultural form.
Assessment: 100% coursework

ENGL6083. Post-Colonial Representations (6 credits)

This course will examine a fundamental issue in post-colonial studies: Representation. This issue will be examined through its various forms, including Gender, Race, Culture, from the perspective of critical, fictional and visual texts.
Assessment: 100% coursework

ENGL7104. Global Shakespeare (6 credits)

The course seeks to introduce students to Shakespeare's plays and their many afterlives across the globe. It examines how and why Shakespeare has become a global phenomenon, performed and studied from Asia to Africa, the Pacific to the Balkans. What is it about the plays that inspires such global interest? What aspects of Shakespeare have been emphasised in different times and contexts? And how have the language and emotions of early modern England been translated into distant cultures?
Assessment: 100% coursework

ENGL7106. The Global History of English (6 credits)

The English language began as a set of obscure dialects on an island at the edge of the world. Today, it is spoken by almost two billion people, and functions as the lingua franca of a vast global network. But the history of English before the twentieth century is also a global story: one involving international politics, power, religion, technology, commerce, music and literature, the oppressor and the oppressed. This course examines the history of the English from its Proto-Indo-European roots to the nineteenth century as a language shaped and changed by global forces. The course begins at the end, with early nineteenth-century English, and traces the language back through the centuries, and through a range of textual forms and formats. It has a particular focus on the external forces of politics, religion, war and language interaction that influenced English, and on the role played by the imported technologies of writing and printing. How has English changed over the centuries—and what international influences have governed this change?
Assessment: 100% coursework

ENGL7107. Race in America: The Novels of William Faulkner and Toni Morrison (6 credits)

In this course, we will examine the works of two Nobel Prize-winning American authors and examine their explorations of American identity, American culture, in particular racial conflict in America. Reading several novels by William Faulkner and Toni Morrison, we will attempt to construct a conversation between the works of these very different authors, who nonetheless share many of the same concerns and narrative strategies. Active class participation, close readings of the primary texts and various critical readings, an oral presentation, and a final research essay will be required.
Assessment: 100% coursework

ENGL7108. Imagining Asia (6 credits)

This course will explore the way several different British and American writers have imagined Asia in their literary texts. We will examine both the similarities and the differences in the way Asia and Asians are represented in texts that span the twentieth century, span the continent, and challenge one another in their various perspectives. In addition, we will read several post-colonial theorists as a tool for understanding with more nuance and depth the contested notions of what constitutes the East and the West and the dynamic relationships between them that are presented in these texts.
Assessment: 100% coursework

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3. Capstone Experience

ENGL7998. Capstone Experience: Final Research Project (18 credits)

Each student will develop and present a final research project on a literary or linguistic topic as part of the fulfilment of the requirements for the MA degree. Students will have the opportunity to pursue their own research interests under the supervision of a teacher who will utilise class-time to a) provide in-depth instructions surrounding the capstone experience; b) provide core knowledge surrounding the production of the final research project (e.g., templates for writing extended essays, guidelines on formulating aims and research questions); and c) provide individual guidance to students so as to help them to formulate a topic and scope the research, to suggest reading, and to review plans and draft chapters. Class time will thus consist of discussions on research methods, theoretical considerations, and presentation skills. The project proposal must be submitted for approval by the beginning of the second semester for full-time MA students, and by the beginning of the fourth semester for part-time MA students. Students are expected to spend much of their time on independent research and writing. The Capstone Experience will culminate in three major research outputs: 1) an extended essay of ca. 2,000 words on their project; 2) a creative output on their project (e.g., poster, film); and 3) the presentation of this creative output at an MAES conference. Full-time students who select to specialise in either linguistics or literature, need to complete the capstone final project in their respective area of specialisation.
Assessment: 100% coursework

Assessment

Each course is examined through coursework assessment based on class participation, presentations and written assignments.