

## 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.

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### 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;<sup>1</sup>
- (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;

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<sup>1</sup> 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.
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## **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.
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## **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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.
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### **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.

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### **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)**

### **ENGLISH STUDIES**

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

The MA in the field of 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 the field of English Studies consists of two introductory courses (9 credits each), one course on Academic Research Practices (3 credits), four seminar courses (6 credits each), and a capstone experience (15 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 normally take two parallel courses per semester over the first three semesters and complete the capstone course in the fourth semester. They can complete the Academic Research Practices course in any of the four semesters of study. Full-time candidates will take five courses in the first semester, and an additional two courses in the second semester, along with the capstone experience. Full-time students may choose to take all their seminar courses in one stream if they wish to specialise in either Linguistics or Literature. While part-time students normally follow a fixed curriculum with half of their courses in Literature and half in Linguistics, they can apply for special approval to take seminar courses in either Linguistics or Literature stream. With at least three courses and the capstone successfully completed in one stream, those students' transcripts will indicate the respective specialisation ('MA - English Studies [Literature]', 'MA - English Studies [Linguistics]'). For students who do not specialize in one stream, their transcripts will indicate 'MA - English Studies'. Courses for part-time students will be offered in the evenings, while full-time students will take courses during the day and in the evenings. In order to allow more flexibility, part-time students may also apply for special approval and take electives offered during the day in either literature and linguistics in lieu of the course(s) offered in the evenings after they have taken the mandatory introductory classes in literature and linguistics. 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 necessarily be offered each year. Full-time and part-time students are allowed to take up to a total of two elective seminar courses online (i.e., up to 12 out of 60 credits, equivalent to 20% of the total curriculum load) throughout their studies. Up to two elective seminar courses may be offered online in an academic year. Priority to enroll in online courses will be given to part-time students.

### *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 the field of 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

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### **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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### **ENGL7801. Academic Research Practices (3 credits)**

This core course will provide students with the necessary foundations in academic research practices required for their coursework and capstone projects in both literary studies and linguistics. Students will be introduced to, and assessed on their knowledge and understanding of, the source citation and referencing conventions of both MLA (Modern Languages Association) and APA (American Psychological Association) styles. The course will also cover matters of academic integrity and research ethics, how to locate, evaluate, and responsibly incorporate and engage with sources in academic writing, as well as other essential strategies and skills for conducting independent research at the postgraduate level.

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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **ENGL7109. Language Variation across Society and Speakers (6 credits)**

This course will explore how language use varies within and between societies and speakers. We will examine the effect of social factors, such as social class, age, gender, sexuality and ethnicity, on individual speakers, and on how these speakers cohere into a variety of speech communities, social networks and communities of practice. Our investigation will embrace

both the micro-interactional dynamics of speech, including an account of how individuals themselves speak differently according to addressee, setting and purpose, as well as macro-social approaches, such as when governments attempt to plan language use for the countries and speakers they govern. While the focus will be on the English language and English-speaking societies, the course will also consider language contact between English and other languages.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **ENGL7110. Gender, Discourse and Society (6 credits)**

The field of Language, Gender and Sexuality has seen dynamic changes since the publication of Robin Lakoff's seminal work, *Language and Woman's Place*, in 1975. In this course, we will focus on various discourse-based approaches to the study of language, gender, and sexuality, reviewing both qualitative and quantitative studies in the field. Discussions and course assessments will challenge students to apply concepts to their own experiences within their own sociocultural contexts. We will also consider gender as one of many social categories that interact with other categories such as age, race, class, ethnicity, profession, sexuality, and others.

In addition, we will explore how language and the way we talk about social categories shape the values we share as a society. What roles do language and discourse play in the empowerment or marginalization of certain groups in society? Our focus on how gender and sexuality both shape and reflect the ideologies of a society will encourage students to question the role of language in creating gender and sexual identities. We also examine the role of discourse in constructing gender and sexuality as relevant social categories and how we can move away from essentialist views of these categories. Readings from a wide range of research contexts and student reflections on their own societies will serve as integral aspects of the course.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **ENGL7111. Worlds of Discourse: Metaphor, Metonymy, and Interpretation (6 credits)**

The course takes as its point of departure two analytical terms which are important both for literary studies and linguistics: metaphor and metonymy. Metaphor is defined by Lakoff and Johnson as "understanding and experiencing one kind of thing in terms of another", as when we use animal characteristics to characterise human beings ("pig-headed", "lion-hearted"). By contrast, metonymy is a relationship of substitution or association, where for example "the White House" is used to stand for the US presidency. In the first half of the course some fundamental analytical concepts are explained, in particular the distinction between literal and figurative meaning, and accounts of metaphor and metonymy from linguistics, literary theory, and philosophy are introduced. The second half of the course looks at specific domains in which important social, cultural (including cross-cultural), or political issues arise, and where interpretative controversies involve the rhetorical deployment of metaphor and metonymy. These domains may include: literary texts; religious language; ecology, including "Gaia theory"; cyberspace; politics; law; illness, disease and the body. Texts are drawn from

global English-language literature, international media, popular culture (e.g. music lyrics), and social media.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **ENGL7115. Analysing Speech (6 credits)**

This course investigates a range of theoretical and practical issues in phonetics, covering both the articulatory and acoustic aspects of segments (vowels and consonants) and prosody (stress, tone, voice quality, etc). Students will learn how to transcribe speech using the International Phonetic Alphabet, and analyse the physics of sound using a free computer program Praat. Along the way, we will explore how knowledge of phonetics can be applied to various areas of inquiry such as speech perception, accent variation and bias, sociophonetics, and second language speech learning across a variety of contexts and cultures. Whilst this course will use Standard Southern British English (also called BBC English/Modern Received Pronunciation) as a reference point, other English varieties/languages will also be discussed whenever appropriate to offer students global and cross-cultural perspectives on the subject.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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## **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 Eurocentric 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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **ENGL6083. Postcolonial Representations (6 credits)**

This course will examine a fundamental issue in postcolonial 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

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### **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

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### **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

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### **ENGL7108. Imagining Asia (6 credits)**

This course explores a range of Anglophone texts that represent Asia and Asian characters, from Western narratives of Asia in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century to modern and contemporary projections of futuristic Asias. The course examines different forms of Orientalism across continents, time periods and genres, and discusses “Asia” in its multiplicity by considering the voices of Asian writers themselves. In addition to reading fictional texts that challenge one another in their perspectives, we will read several post-colonial theorists as a tool for understanding the contested notions of what constitutes the East and the West and the dynamic relationships between them.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **ENGL7112. Global Medieval Literatures (6 credits)**

The focus of this course on global medieval literatures is how emotion (particularly love) is culturally constructed. We will focus on the literatures of medieval Japan, Persia and Europe. As we read the texts of the course, we will examine courtly love, erotic love and/as religious experience, the role of women as writers, the function of emotions (especially as a marker of nobility), ideals of masculinity, and the cultural construction of desire, including same-sex desire.

Japanese texts will include a range of women’s writings: poems of waka poet Ono no Komachi (c.825-900) and Izumi Shikibu (b.c.976), the abridged version of Murasaki Shikibu’s *The Tale of Genji* (early 1000s), and extracts from Sei Shonagon’s *Pillow Book* (c.990-1010). Persian texts will include extracts from the *Rubaiyat* of Omar Khayyam (1048–1131), Nizami Ganjavi’s *Leyli o Majnun* (1141-1209) and poems by Rumi (1207-1273) and Hafez (1315-1390). European texts will include the *Lai de Lanval* of Marie de France (fl. c. 1160-1215), selections from Arthurian literature, and an extract from Geoffrey Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales* (fl. c. 1380-1400). All readings will be in modern English translation.

As we read these literary works, we will contextualise them historically by reading short extracts from additional primary sources (such as love manuals and conduct books), and consider their critical reception by reading selections from secondary sources.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **ENGL7113. The Cosmopolitan Stage in the Eighteenth Century (6 credits)**

This course will take students to the professional London theatres of the 18th century. The Eighteenth Century London theatres were dynamic and volatile spaces, especially interested in foreign locales, from the Inca Empire in Peru, to a Muslim-occupied Jerusalem, to Beijing under Manchurian rule. We will examine how popular drama from one of the largest cities in

Europe recreated a global world for English consumption. We will focus our attention on the themes of Cosmopolitanism and Enlightenment, and look at how popular theatre in London circulated and interrogated arguments for cultural toleration, diversity, and universalism. Through close, dramaturgical readings of popular dramatic texts that feature cross cultural contact, we will study the ways in which popular entertainment used the exotic and the foreign to encourage its audiences to think differently and experimentally about issues to do with sexuality, religion, and politics. Deploying a History of Emotions approach to our analysis of the 18th century theatre, this course will encourage students to think about how theatre attempts to solicit and manipulate collective emotions, and the role these emotions play in public life.

Assessment: 100% coursework

### **ENGL7116. Planetary Futures and Imaginaries (6 credits)**

This course introduces the planetary as a relatively new paradigm in literary and cultural studies. Emerging from, and in critical dialogue with, world literature, postcolonialism and globalization, the planetary invites scholars and students of literary studies to actively and responsibly reconfigure our understanding of, relationship with, influence onto the environment, nature, and the Earth, and to more aptly address and respond to such prevalent and urgent issues on the planetary scale such as climate change, global warming, pollution, energy crisis, biodiversity loss, the Anthropocene, the threat of nuclear power and weapons, environmental and humanitarian disaster, pandemic and world health, food waste and global hunger, massive displacements and refugee movements etc.

In this course, we will study a wide range of literary works, together with a few graphic novels and/or cinematic examples, that touch upon and call for attention and reflection on urgent matters of the planetary. A selection of texts will be future-oriented and/or address the Anthropocene, such as dystopian fiction, petrofiction (oil fiction) and cli-fi, (climate fiction) that imagine different versions of planetary crises and apocalypses. It will allow us to develop meaningful enquiries and discussions upon the speculative “what-if” and address issues such as exploitation and overconsumption, our collective inadequacies and unpreparedness, and what Garrett Hardin calls “the tragedy of the commons” (1968). Alongside these primary texts, students will encounter a range of critical and secondary materials that prepare us with vocabulary, theories and methods to discuss and approach urgent issues and ongoing debates regarding the planetary.

We will read the works of leading scholars from various disciplines in the humanities such as Amitav Ghosh, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Ian Baucom, Bruno Latour, Donna Haraway and Kathryn Yusoff among others. We will explore questions such as follows: what entails the planetary as a new paradigm in literary and cultural studies? In what ways can literature and literary studies provide new insights and imaginations in the wake of climate change, energy crisis, and planetary challenges? Is the novel genre an impediment to our imaginations of planetary futures? How does the planetary respond to postcolonialism and globalization theories, and importantly, expose the inadequacies thereof? Is the Anthropocene singular (for Yusoff, it is plural as in the title of her 2016 monograph *A Billion Black Anthropocenes or None*)? What are the new challenges contemporary artists of storytelling (such as novelists and filmmakers) must confront at the time of climate crisis and the Anthropocene, in which

the main actors and agents who bring forth changes and destructions are impersonal, such as nature, the environment and the Earth (Latour raises a similar question in his 2014 article “Agency at the Time of the Anthropocene”)? From a legal perspective, in dialogue with Christopher D. Stone’s question “should trees have standing?” (1996), we explore the question of who should have legal standing in environmental matters.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **ENGL7117. Global Perspectives in (Auto)biographies (6 credits)**

This course enables students to understand and critique impactful (auto)biographies from diverse cultural contexts, while also collecting, composing and performing biographical narratives from their communities. The global, published (auto)biographies will be examined through close readings and adaptations in other media forms, where relevant. The students’ unpublished life writing pieces will be created and presented in a bilingual page-to-stage event at the end of the semester.

In addition to appreciating and writing biographical texts, this course will investigate concepts of memory and storytelling, questions of revelation, suppression and representation of identity. Overall, this course seeks to embed students within the process of contemplating, critiquing, and creating memoirs.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **3. Capstone Experience**

#### **ENGL7994. Capstone Experience: Final Research Project (15 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 drafts. Class time will thus consist of discussions on research methods, theoretical considerations, and presentation skills. A project proposal must be submitted for approval before Reading Week of the second semester for full-time MA students, and before Reading Week 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) a research essay on their project; 2) a creative output on their project (e.g., poster, film, website); and 3) the presentation of their research and findings at a 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. Full-time and part-time students with a CGPA of 3.6 or higher, who are on track to receive a Distinction before the capstone experience can also apply to do an extended final essay.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **Assessment**

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

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