

## 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.
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## **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.

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## **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.

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## **SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS (MA)**

### **HONG KONG HISTORY**

*These Syllabuses apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Arts in the field of Hong Kong History in the academic year 2025-26 and thereafter.*

The MA in the field of Hong Kong History is taught by the Department of History and provides advanced training in the skills and methodologies of academic history. This MA focuses upon the modern history of Hong Kong as a part of global history. One required course introduces skills and methods in historical research and writing. One required course provides students with an overview of Hong Kong history. Elective courses provide students with the ability to explore a variety of aspects of Hong Kong's history in greater depth. Students must also complete a capstone course in a specialist, original area of research under the guidance of expert supervisors. They may either write an MA dissertation or complete a public history project intended for wider dissemination.

The MA curriculum comprises six semester-long courses and a capstone course, distributed in the following way:

- 2 required core courses (9 credits each = 18 credits total)
- 4 elective MA courses (9 credits each = 36 credits total)
- 1 MA capstone course (12 credits)

All instruction is in English and assessment is 100% coursework, which may include discussion, oral presentations, research essays, and various kinds of short writing assignments.

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

## REQUIRED CORE COURSES

### **HIST7008. Doing Hong Kong History: Methods, Debates, and Sources (9 credits)**

This core course examines a range of themes, problems, and issues in Hong Kong's history. The goals of the course are to familiarize students with the ways scholars have approached Hong Kong history; assess how theories based on other historical experiences can be used to understand Hong Kong history; and introduce primary sources for studying Hong Kong history. Students will develop the skills necessary for writing about Hong Kong history at an advanced level; acquire the knowledge required to pursue independent research and draft an effective dissertation research proposal; and learn to use scholarly citations properly and in accordance with disciplinary standards and conventions.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **HIST7018. Hong Kong in History (9 credits)**

This course introduces students to key events, developments, and debates in Hong Kong history from the early 1800s to recent times. It explores Hong Kong's history from several angles: Chinese history, British imperial history, world history, and as a place with its own identity. Students will engage with key primary and secondary readings to foster an understanding of political, social, economic, and cultural trends in Hong Kong history. The goals of the course are to familiarize students with the history of Hong Kong, introduce the ways historians have approached this history, and explore how Hong Kong's past has shaped its present.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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## MA ELECTIVES

(Students choose four courses)

### **HIST7009. Health and Medicine in Hong Kong (9 credits)**

In this course we explore health and medicine in Hong Kong from the First Opium War to the present. Adopting a chronological and cross-cutting thematic approach, we consider the evolution of the state and its institutions in relation to a number of health challenges: from malaria and plague in the nineteenth century to novel zoonotic infections, such as SARS and COVID-19, in the twenty-first century; from the health impacts of mass-migration to cancer and super-ageing today. To what extent did Western medicine serve as an instrument of colonial power? Conversely, how did the expansion of health services in the twentieth century contribute to Hong Kong's social transformation? And finally, how have race, gender, and class influenced health priorities? In addressing these questions, we consider developments in Hong Kong in relation to broader interregional and global phenomena: from war and revolution to financial crisis and climate change.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **HIST7010. Histories of Childhood in Colonial Hong Kong (9 credits)**

What difference did colonial conditions make to being a 'child,' an 'adolescent,' or a young person in Hong Kong? This course considers these questions and explores youth as a social group, along with the different kinds of social, symbolic and political roles that adults ascribed to children and youth in colonial-era Hong Kong. Over the last two centuries modernizers redefined childhood and youth as a matter of public importance, and established notion of their 'best interest' and ideal social roles. Linking Hong Kong with the wider British Empire and other imperial and colonial contexts this course engages with the issue of how adult society understood – or misunderstood – those who were young, and how interpretations and representations of youth and childhood impacted upon those thus defined. Ultimately, the course argues for the need to think critically about what we think we know about childhood and youth, and how age intersected with race, class, gender and other categories in colonial contexts.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **HIST7011. Laws of Hong Kong in Global History (9 credits)**

This course studies how important global moments matter to the legal history of Hong Kong. It teaches students to see Hong Kong legal system and its "rule of law" not only as an institution to address local needs but as a response to global changes/trends in norms, values, and geopolitical relationship. It will demonstrate how Hong Kong laws responded to and were impacted by global colonialism, regional revolutionary activities, communism, Cold War, decolonization and the rise of China. Students do not need to have prior legal knowledge to attend this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**HIST7012. Hong Kong: Uncertain(city) (9 credits)**

Hong Kong is a city built on speculation. This course examines Hong Kong's history of instability, anxiety, contingency, and panic through a study of its built environment. Through a series of readings, intensive in-course discussions, and student presentations, we will trace the various impacts of uncertainty as they have become inscribed within the city's architecture and urban form over the last 180 years. Through an engagement with both primary and secondary sources, we will explore the historical range of influences that have shaped Hong Kong's physical development, including the city's identity as a port, its population density, its cosmopolitanism, transnational flows of goods, money, and people, the effects of both colonial and post-colonial governing systems, contagion and disease, as well as climate, among others. Students will be expected to actively engage, react to, and build upon these themes in in-class discussions and the completion of a research project of their own choosing.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**HIST7013. Planning and Building Hong Kong (9 credits)**

This course investigates the histories of urbanism in Hong Kong and the different urban processes that have shaped and continue to shape the city's built environment. By tracing the advent of new planning and building projects initiated in different periods, students are invited to consider not only how buildings, streets, infrastructure and urban spaces were designed and put to use, but also why. Discussions throughout the course will engage with questions related to contemporary urbanization and consider how historical knowledge may impart a better understanding of the environmental challenges we are facing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**HIST7014. Gender and Sexuality in Hong Kong (9 credits)**

Using gender as a category of historical analysis and drawing on a wide range of sources, this course provides an introduction to gender and sexuality in Hong Kong. Topics to be discussed include: marriage and divorce; family and parenthood; concubinage and female servitude; land and inheritance; patriarchy and colonial rule; gender hierarchies and sexual norms; education, sport, and work. Students will learn to apply concepts, theories, and methodologies in the history of gender and sexuality to the case of Hong Kong; analyse historical events that shaped gender roles and stereotypes; evaluate the impacts of sexual and reproductive health campaigns by government, philanthropical, and religious groups; and examine how individuals in Hong Kong conformed to and resisted the state's intervention into their sexual and reproductive experience at different historical points.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**HIST7015. The History of Business in Hong Kong (9 credits)**

This course will introduce students to the historical development of business in Hong Kong from 1841 to the present day and provide them with an understanding of how Hong Kong became the business hub it is today. The course consists of a series of seminars that will cover both thematic readings and more focused case studies of Western and Chinese businesses in Hong Kong. Through these seminars, students will learn about the early role of Hong Kong businesses in the China trade, the role both Chinese and Western multinational companies in Hong Kong played in connecting Hong Kong and mainland China to the global economy in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the growth of Hong Kong into an industrial hub starting in the 1950s, and the contribution of Hong Kong entrepreneurs to China's rapid economic growth since the 1970s. In addition, individual tutorials and independent research assignments will develop the students' ability to conduct historical research with a focus on Hong Kong business history.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**HIST7016. City on the Move: Transport and Mobility in Hong Kong History (9 credits)**

Hong Kong is often described as a place where “East meets West,” a place where the population is transient, and a place which facilitates the movement of people, goods and capital. This course explores the history of this mobility in Hong Kong. The various land, water, and air transport networks in Hong Kong have shaped the city. Using both primary and secondary sources, students will gain an appreciation of how the development of transport in Hong Kong has historically shaped Hong Kong society. This course approaches the issue of transport from multiple perspectives, such as its physical development, the technology used, and its social impact. It also considers Hong Kong transport outside of the city, such as through how it facilitates links between Hong Kong and the world, and how global events can have local and regional effects. Through readings and in-class discussions, students will be invited to reconsider their own interactions with these transport networks.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**HIST7017. Education in Hong Kong History (9 credits)**

Located at the edge of the Chinese and British empires, schools in colonial Hong Kong served as a breeding ground for bilingual, bicultural elites. Using a thematic approach, this course will explore the dynamics of various social, cultural and political actors that shaped the faces of education in (post-) colonial Hong Kong. We will look at how education was used as a tool to consolidate colonial rule, and how Chinese elites and philanthropists actively expanded their influence through the provision of education. Despite the institutionalization of mass education in 1978, Hong Kong society remains highly stratified today. By highlighting different colonial legacies in education, including meritocracy and the cultural hegemony of the English language, the course aims to shed light on how education inequalities have been exemplified in the face of global challenges.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **HIST7019. Cinema and Hong Kong History (9 credits)**

This course explores connections between Hong Kong history and Hong Kong cinema. It also considers how Hong Kong has been a regional and global cinematic crossroads from the beginning of the 20th century until today. Hong Kong films tell stories about wars (hot and cold), ancient and modern times, colonialism, communism, capitalism, Confucianism, cross-cultural encounters of various types, migration, crime and shadow economies, and social, economic, and political change. Throughout the semester we will analyze a number of films, paying attention to portrayals of Hong Kong people and society in different historical eras. While films generally flatten historical complexity and distort the past for a range of commercial, ideological, or political reasons, filmmakers nonetheless wield power and influence as they make use of different types of historical evidence, technologies, affects, and narrative styles. For all of their shortcomings, films can recuperate hidden histories, shape public memory, and inspire audiences to dig more deeply into the study of the past. Today, thanks to greater connectivity via social media and streaming platforms, and a re-kindled interest in Hong Kong among audiences across the world, Hong Kong history is, literally, everywhere on screens large and small.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **HIST7020. Religion in Hong Kong History (9 credits)**

Nearly half the schools and colleges in Hong Kong are Christian, yet only 10% of the population claims to be Christian, while 3 out of 5 Chief Executives have professed Catholic faith. According to a 2010 survey conducted by the Hong Kong Taoist Association, 1 in 7 identify with Taoism, yet the abundance of altars dedicated to earth deities in shop fronts exceeds this ratio. Such anomalies invite us to ask: how and why did religion develop across Hong Kong history? What is its meaning and use in both past and present? This course examines the many entanglements of religion in Hong Kong history, from missionary schools to Buddhist philanthropy, from Taoist tourism to everyday popular religion. Through lectures, discussions, assignments, and a field trip, students will come away from this course with a broader understanding of 'religion' as well as its undeniable and enduring relationship with Hong Kong's social, economic, cultural, and political landscape.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **HIST7021. Special Topics in Hong Kong History (9 credits)**

This course will focus on an area of Hong Kong history, as organized by the course instructor. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to engage critically with primary and secondary sources, to develop their research and analytical skills, and to think creatively about how to apply historical knowledge to contemporary issues. Students will be encouraged to engage with the history and historiography of a particular sub-field of Hong Kong history.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **HIST7022. Sports and Leisure in Hong Kong History (9 credits)**

This course explores the history of Hong Kong's sports and leisure culture and practices, delving into how these activities have reflected the broader history of Hong Kong, from colonial period to contemporary time. Through investigating the myriad ways in which Hong Kong's distinctive Chinese culture with a colonial past, its shifting social dynamics, increasing commercialisation and the political changes have influenced and been influenced by the realm of sports and leisure, students will gain insights into the complex interplay between global influences and indigenous responses. The course uses a thematic approach to consider how sporting events and recreational practices have acted as catalysts for community building and platforms for various discourses. By examining historical events, policy changes, and cultural shifts, students will understand the social, economic and political context of sports and leisure in Hong Kong and how they have served as mirrors reflecting broader societal concerns.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **HIST7023. Death and Dying in Hong Kong History (9 credits)**

This course explores how the Chinese, the British and other foreign communities in Hong Kong grappled with the reality of death and dying, as well as how death informed and influenced the socio-political dynamics of the colony. During the first century of colonial Hong Kong, how did transients and settlers in the colony view and manage death? Physically, how were bodies being handled and buried in a crowded and burgeoning city? Spiritually and mentally, how were emotions surrounding death and dying being expressed in a colonial context where different cultural norms were contending? Socially and politically, how were the deceased commemorated in the public, in relation to communities, regimes and political movements? From the mid-twentieth century onwards, Hong Kong witnessed the transition from burial to cremation against the backdrop of rapid urbanisation and population growth. On the other hand, how were cultural traditions and emotional significance of mourning preserved and reinvented in the face of unrelenting urbanisation?

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **HIST7024. History of Hong Kong Literature (9 credits)**

What is Hong Kong literature? Is it literature written in Hong Kong, literature written about Hong Kong, or literature written by someone from Hong Kong? Should Hong Kong literature be written in Chinese or English, or in what specific forms of Chinese? Through tracing the historical development of Hong Kong literature, this course explores these questions surrounding language and identity in this multicultural global city. This course introduces writers who lived in and wrote about Hong Kong from the mid-nineteenth century to the contemporary. By historically contextualizing the literary works and experiences of these writers, we reflect upon the realities of migration, displacement, and inequalities in this city,

as well as various opportunities and encounters that arise within these complex social landscapes. Through learning about the novels, essays, memoirs, poetry and lyrics written in the past, we also have a glimpse of the struggles, aspirations, desires and emotions of generations of people in Hong Kong throughout its history. Since this course focuses on historically contextualising literary texts and writers' experiences rather than advanced literary criticism, students do not need to have any background in literary studies.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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## **CAPSTONE COURSES**

(Students choose one course)

### **HIST7998. Capstone Experience: Public History Project (12 credits)**

This communication-intensive capstone course offers students the opportunity to produce an original piece of research in Hong Kong history with a focus on disseminating findings to the general public. In addition to receiving training in research and writing, this course is designed to equip students with professional skills that will be relevant to jobs outside of academia. The first few weeks will consist of introductory lectures on the goals, scope, and ethics of Public History. Students will then work either individually or in groups of up to three on their public history project. After conducting an extensive literature review and formulating their research question using coursework from HIST7008, students will gather then critically evaluate historical evidence relating to their project. In the later part of the course, students will deliver their findings in a written report and in one alternative method of their choosing that focuses on one sector of the general public. From the third week onwards, the class will meet every other week in workshops. During workshops, groups will share progress updates, provide constructive criticism to one another, and receive guidance from the course instructor. Research findings should be completed and presented in the penultimate week. The final week will involve a reflection on the entire process and the historical profession more generally.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **HIST7999. Capstone Experience: MA Dissertation in Hong Kong History (12 credits)**

Students in this course will produce a written dissertation (10,000 words) based on research into a selected topic in Hong Kong history. They will apply advanced methods of scholarly research to this topic; demonstrate knowledge of historical theory and methodology; show original thinking in presenting a scholarly argument about their topic; and master professional practices and standards of historical writing, use of sources, and presentation.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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