

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Bachelor of Arts Programme in English Studies

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The English Studies programme in the School of English consists of five different types of courses which are taught using distinctive learning modes. All courses are 6-credit courses. A range of 120-180 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) is the norm for a 6-credit course.

Contact hours are in a range of 24-36 hours for a 6-credit course. The teaching/ learning mode of the majority of courses is lecture and seminar/ tutorial, supplemented by directed activities and self-study. However, some may have different learning modes and, consequently, fewer contact hours, such as the Internship and Research courses, where contact hours are minimal (6-12 hours for a 6-credit course) because students mainly do independent field or research work under the guidance of a supervisor. As a general guide, regardless of the teaching method used, the total output should be approx. 4,000–6,000 words for a 6-credit course. All courses are assessed 100% by continuous assessment.

The five categories of courses in the English Studies programme may be summarised as follows:

1. *Introductory courses* (6 credits)

These introductory-level courses, to be taken in the first and second years, emphasise the practice of critical reading, analysis and writing, as well as the development of historical and theoretical foundations. Contact hours are normally three per week, consisting of a combination of lectures and tutorials or workshops. Assessment is by a variety of coursework (including writing assignments, tests, and oral contributions), with a total output of approx. 5,000 words.

2. *Advanced courses* (6 credits)

These advanced-level courses, to be taken in the third and fourth years, deepen certain themes and topics in the discipline and are taught in a combination of lectures and seminars. Assessment is by a variety of coursework (including writing assignments, tests, and oral contributions), with a total output of approx. 5,000 words.

3. *Research course: capstone* (6 credits)

This course aims at providing students with an opportunity to pursue their own research interests under the supervision of a teacher. Contact hours are minimal (6-12 hours) because students spend much of their time on individual research and writing. Assessment is through a single piece of work, which is either a single essay or a portfolio of essays, with a total output of approx. 5,000 words.

4. *Senior colloquium: capstone* (6 credits)

This course offers students an opportunity to integrate and reflect upon what they have learned in the major while focusing on current topics and critical debates in English studies. There are no formal lectures but weekly meetings for the discussion of texts and issues, led

by students. Assessment is based on contributions to colloquium discussions and one or several writing assignments, with a total output of approx. 5,000 words.

5. Internship: capstone (6 credits)

The internship aims at providing senior students with an experiential learning opportunity to work in environments where they will be able to apply their disciplinary knowledge and skills, and acquire work experience through on-the-job training. Internship positions are arranged by students, under the guidance of the course coordinator, in host organisations which provide relevant experiences. The duration of the internship will depend on the arrangement between the student and the organization, but should involve at least 120 contact hours of service for the organization. The student learning activities include preparation, on-site internship work under the guidance and supervision of an internship supervisor, meetings with the course coordinator, self-study (e.g. all associated readings) and assessment-related work. Assessment (pass/ fail) is based on written reports with a total output of approx. 4,000 words, and feedback from the internship supervisor.

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