Briefing Session on
English Major and Minor 2022-23
for First-Year Students

Dr. Elizabeth Ho
(Undergraduate Coordinator)

School of English
August 17, 2022
16:00 – 17:30, at CPD-3.28
## Agenda

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Entrance Admission Requirement to English Studies and Courses

1. A minimum Level 5 in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE)

OR

2. An equivalent score in another recognized English proficiency test (e.g. IELTS, TOEFL, IB Diploma, National Higher Education Entrance Exam, etc.)

Submit proof to english@hku.hk
2. Curriculum Structure and Features
English Studies

- **Language and literature** are studied from **multiple perspectives**, linguistic and literary ones, also including critical and cultural theory, and creative writing.

- **Cross-cultural orientation**: recognizing English as a language of global communication and world literature, a language that people make their own, creatively and habitually, all over the world.
## Curriculum Structure of English Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Major (Credits)</th>
<th>Minor (Credits)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductory level</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) List A “Historical and Theoretical Foundations”</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(including 6 credits of ENGL course as a first-year prerequisite)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) List B “Critical Reading, Analysis and Writing”</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Either from List A or B</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced level</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**
- Admission to advanced courses: completion of at least 3 introductory courses (at least 1 from List A and B)
English Studies

- **Introductory courses** emphasize the development of **historical and theoretical knowledge** (List A courses), as well as the practice of **critical reading, analysis and writing** (List B courses).

- **Advanced courses** focus on language and literature as representations of culture and society in diverse historical contexts, including the local and postcolonial; and on how language and literature work to produce meaning in different discourses, genres and media.
English Studies

Option 1: Specialization Streams (optional)
• Literature Stream; or
• Language and Communication Stream; or
• Both Streams mentioned above

Option 2: General without declaration of any Specialization Streams
English Studies (Courses)

**English literature:** medieval, Shakespeare, Renaissance, Eighteenth-Century, Romanticism, Victorian, modern, contemporary, post-colonial, cross-cultural, feminism, rhetoric, literary islands, travel writing, graphic novels...

**Language, literature and law:** legal discourse and the mind; law, meaning and interpretation; law and literature...

**Structural and applied linguistics:** syntax, phonetics and phonology, semantics and pragmatics, language acquisition, corpus linguistics...

**Sociolinguistics:** multilingualism, cross-cultural discourses, language and identity, World Englishes, language and globalization, visual communication...
3. Course Admission Policy and Quotas

- Enrollment requests are NOT approved on a first-come-first-served basis, as the School Office will need to take various factors into consideration, such as whether each applicant has fulfilled the entrance and/ or pre-requisite requirements; his/ her year of study (senior major and minor students are prioritized); fulfilment progress of major/ minor requirements in case of Year 2 and above students, etc.

- Prospective major/ minor students are advised to take at least one introductory List A course in Year 1, if they wish to declare that major/ minor in Year 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Normative Class Quota (Unless Otherwise Specified by Individual Courses on SIS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductory (List A)</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductory (List B)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced ENGL2xxx</td>
<td>35-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced capstone ENGL3xxx</td>
<td>Subject to the cohort size</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Introductory Courses Offered This Year

List A: Historical and theoretical foundations
ENGL1015 Introduction to English Linguistics
ENGL1022 Poetry past and present
ENGL1024 World Literature
ENGL1042 World Englishes
ENGL1056 Introduction to language and communication
ENGL1059 Introduction to pragmatics

List B: Critical reading, analysis and writing
ENGL1014 Imaginary geographies: The art of writing place
ENGL1027 Analyzing discourse
ENGL1028 Awakenings: Exploring women’s writing
ENGL1032 Late Victorian texts and contexts
ENGL1036 Meaning and metaphor
ENGL1040 Rewriting and writing back
ENGL1041 Modernity and literary modernism
ENGL1043 An introduction to 20th-century English poetry
ENGL1045 "Community" in sociolinguistics
ENGL1048 Crime stories
ENGL1050 An introduction to research methods in sociolinguistics
ENGL1054 Writing disaster: Literature, trauma, memory
ENGL1055 Language myths and realities
ENGL1061 Introduction to psycholinguistics
4. Advanced Courses Offered This Year

*English Language and Linguistics*

- ENGL2002  Language in Society
- ENGL2004  English syntax
- ENGL2007  Literary linguistics
- ENGL2039  Gender, sexuality and discourse
- ENGL2103  Language and digital media
- ENGL2112  History of English
- ENGL2115  Theories of language acquisition
- ENGL2119  English in Hong Kong: Making it your own
- ENGL2126  Law, meaning, and interpretation
- ENGL2129  English as a language of science
- ENGL2146  Cognitive semantics
- ENGL2166  English phonetics
- ENGL2179  Theories of language and communication
- ENGL2181  Language and politeness
- ENGL2187  The language of news media
## 4. Advanced Courses Offered This Year

### English Literary Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL2010</td>
<td>The novel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL2079</td>
<td>Shakespeare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL2085</td>
<td>Creative writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL2120</td>
<td>Science fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL2131</td>
<td>The critic as artist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL2134</td>
<td>World literature and theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL2137</td>
<td>The profession of playwright in early modern England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL2142</td>
<td>Milton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL2147</td>
<td>Joyce’s voices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL2150</td>
<td>The city and modernity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL2156</td>
<td>Eighteenth-century British literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL2165</td>
<td>Legal fictions: United States citizenship and the right to write in America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL2169</td>
<td>Writing and violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL2176</td>
<td>Writing Asian diasporas</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
4. Advanced Courses Offered This Year (Capstone Courses)

Major students should take one advanced course called a capstone experience course in their final year. Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>English Studies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>ENGL3041 Senior colloquium in English studies</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>ENGL3042 Extended essay in English studies*</td>
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<td></td>
<td>* By Faculty’s invitation to “Undergraduate Research Fellowship Programme” (URFP); Eligibility: CGPA reaches 3.5 or above (out of 4.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiential learning (students’ self-initiated internship opportunities)</td>
<td>ENGL3040 Internship in English studies</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
4. Credit-bearing Internship Opportunities (ENGL3040)

Features

• Experiential learning

• Self-initiated internship opportunities: internship host can be from our partnership list or from a student’s own choice

• Minimum 120 contact hours of services

• Assessment: 100% coursework (graded on a pass/fail basis)

• Webpage: https://english.hku.hk/Undergraduate/Internships
4. Credit-bearing Internship Opportunities (ENGL3040)

Examples of our industry partners:

- Archetype Hong Kong
- ArtAsiaPacific
- Campus Education Publishing Limited
- CW CPA
- Earth.Org
- Edipresse Media Hong Kong Limited
- Gohin
- HHCKLA Buddhist Ching Kok Secondary School
- HKU Guild and Black Box Studio
- Hong Kong Archaeological Society
- Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, Leadership 21
- Hong Kong International Literary Festival
- Hong Kong Living
- i-Learner
- Integrated Brilliant Education Center (Jordan)
- JC Legal
- Larus Foundation
- Learning Together
- NTK Academic Group
- One Ten Charity Foundation Limited
- Shakespeare4All
- Sinclair Communications
- Tai Kwun Centre for Heritage and the Arts
- Take2 Health Limited
- Teach for Hong Kong
- University Museum and Art Gallery
- VPower Holdings Limited
- Wiseland Elite Learning Centre
- Yew Chung College of Early Childhood Education

...and many more other organizations and companies which generously offer internships to our students
An Example of Study Plan
(only for reference – not a compulsory study plan)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>3 Introductory courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Year of exploration)</td>
<td>(at least 1 from List A, 1 from List B, 1 from either List A/ B – i.e. the pre-requisite for advanced courses)</td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>• 2 Introductory courses (from List A and List B)</td>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2 Advanced courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>2 Advanced courses (at HKU or by credit transfer)</td>
<td>2 Advanced courses (at HKU or by credit transfer)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>2 Advanced courses (including a capstone course – Pre-requisite for capstone: Completion of all 5 introductory courses and 4 advanced courses)</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Major Requirements</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>78</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### 5. Course Selection for Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester 1 (2022)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 19 (Fri) (10:00) – Aug 20 (Sat) (11:59)</td>
<td>Course selection period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 20 (Sat) (12:00) – Aug 22 (Mon) (14:29)</td>
<td>Suspension period (for teaching units start considering enrollment requests, thus students cannot select courses)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 22 (Mon) (14:30) – Aug 25 (Thu) (16:00)</td>
<td>Continuous course selection period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First add/drop period</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 1 (Thu) (10:00) – Sep 2 (Fri) (11:59)</td>
<td>Students may add/drop courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2 (Fri) (12:00 to 16:59)</td>
<td>Suspension period (for teaching units start considering enrollment requests, thus students cannot select courses)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2 (Fri) (17:00) – Sep 15 (Thu) (16:00)</td>
<td>Continuous course selection period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 5. Course Selection for Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester 2 (2023)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second add/ drop period</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 16 (Mon) (10:00) – Jan 17 (Tue) (11:59)</td>
<td>Course selection period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 17 (Tue) (12:00 to 16:59)</td>
<td>Suspension period (for teaching units start considering enrollment requests, thus students cannot select courses)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 17 (Tue) (17:00) – Feb 6 (Mon) (16:00)</td>
<td>Continuous course selection period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Academic Planning Reminders

1. Please note that **double-counting of courses for fulfilling more than one major or minor is not allowed**, as a University-wide policy. E.g. “ENGL2177 Reading and Re-reading Jane Austen” is listed in the English Studies syllabus, and Gender Studies syllabus. It can be used to fulfil EITHER English Studies, OR Gender Studies major, but not BOTH.

2. In order to be able to declare a major/ minor in English Studies, students must pass at least one List A course as a first-year prerequisite taken in either the first or second semester.

3. Though students can start taking advanced courses after completion of three of introductory courses (at least one from both List A and List B), prospective majors are strongly encouraged to complete ALL five introductory courses in the first two years before they progress with advanced courses.
### Summary of important prerequisite requirements on course enrollments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Prerequisite Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrollments in introductory courses</td>
<td>Level 5 or above in English Language in HKDSE, or an equivalent score in another recognized English proficiency test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declaration of major/minor in Year 2 or above</td>
<td>Completion of one List A ENGL course (6 credits) as a first-year prerequisite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrollments in advanced courses</td>
<td>Completion of 18 credits of introductory courses, with at least 6 credits from both List A and List B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrollments in a major capstone course</td>
<td>Completion of 30 credits of introductory courses and 24 credits of advanced courses in the major (including transferred credits gained from a host institution, if any)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Credit Transfer for Exchange Studies

1. **University Policy on Credit Transfer**

A semester or a year of full-time study in a host institution, which has 2 semesters per academic year, should normally translate into a full semester’s or full year’s credits at HKU (i.e. up to 30 or 60 HKU credits respectively)

2. **Faculty Cap Policy on Credit Transfer**

   a) **Up to 50% of the transferred credits** to HKU can be counted towards each of the Arts major/ minor requirements. In other words, students should complete **at least 50% of each of the Arts major/ minor requirements at HKU**

   b) **Transferred credits in excess of the cap** as approved by the major/ minor offering programme(s) will be counted only as **free elective(s) for the BA degree**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Arts major</th>
<th>Arts minor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Max. no. of exchange credits allowed to be transferred to HKU</td>
<td>36 credits</td>
<td>18 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min. no. of credits completed at HKU</td>
<td>42 credits</td>
<td>18 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>78 credits</td>
<td>36 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reference: [https://english.hku.hk/Undergraduate/Credit_Transfer](https://english.hku.hk/Undergraduate/Credit_Transfer)
7. Credit Transfer for Exchange Studies

Preparation before departure for exchange
✓ Check if the host institution offers courses comparable to your declared major(s)/minor(s), which are suitable for credit transfer to HKU.

✓ Before making your course selection at the host institution, consult the Undergraduate Coordinator (via the School Office) on the suitability of the courses for credit transfer by providing detailed course information.

✓ Formal application has to be submitted to the Arts Faculty Office who will also decide on the number of credits to be transferred (http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/forms).
8. Plagiarism Warning

❖ The University’s definitions on “plagiarism” are as follows:

**Plagiarism** refers to “direct copying of textual material or wilful use of other people’s data and ideas, and presenting them as one’s own without acknowledgement, whether or not such materials, data and ideas have been published”. (Paragraph 6, “Regulations Governing Students’ Academic Conduct Concerning Assessment”)

**Self-plagiarism** refers to “reuse of one’s own data or repeat of previously published written work, or part thereof, in a ‘new’ publication without acknowledging that the data set has been used or written work has been published elsewhere”. (Paragraph 3.1, “Policy on Research Integrity”)

Plagiarism is **strictly prohibited** in all assignments and examinations and will result in a Fail grade and possibly disciplinary action.

❖ Use proper citations and provide sources wherever necessary. Follow the guidelines on the School website: [https://english.hku.hk/General_Information/Plagiarism_Warning](https://english.hku.hk/General_Information/Plagiarism_Warning).
❖ Note the online tutorial provided by CAES: [http://www4.caes.hku.hk/plagiarism/](http://www4.caes.hku.hk/plagiarism/).
❖ In case of doubt, always consult your teachers or tutors.
9. Awards

1. Annie Wong Prize in English Literature (1 award)
2. Ellis Bell Prize in English Literature and Comparative Literature (1 award)
3. Falling Leaves Foundation Prize in Cross-Cultural Studies in English/English Literary Studies (1 award)
4. Joseph Yau Sai Man Memorial Prize in English Literature (2 awards)
5. Maisie Choa English Poetry Prize (2 awards)
6. Melanie Lee Enrichment Award in English (2 awards):
   (1 Internship award and 1 overseas travel award)
7. R.K.M. Simpson Prize in English (1 award)
8. Sir Robert Kotewall Memorial Prize (1 award)
9. The Lily Pond Prize in English (1 award)
10. Fr Alvaro Ribeiro SJ Memorial Scholarship (2 awards)

Reference: [https://english.hku.hk/Undergraduate/Prizes_and_Scholarships](https://english.hku.hk/Undergraduate/Prizes_and_Scholarships)
10. ENGLISH STUDIES
The First Year
FROM SECONDARY TO UNDERGRADUATE
Some major differences:

High school:
• Your time is mapped for you
• Structured study time such as homework
• Common curriculum
• Teachers on site
• Reading comprehension and basic skills
• Standardized assignments such as exams
• Model answers

University:
• Choose your own timetable
• Independent study
• Each course has its own syllabus & structure
• Professors/researchers – office hours
• Sharing of independent ideas via discussion and writing
• Range of assessment
• Independent thinking
Lectures and tutorials:

**Lectures:**
- Can be 2 hours
- Can be 3 hours
- Taught by professors

**Lecture & Tutorial:**
- 2-hour lecture plus:
  - 1 hour “tutorial”
  - Workshop or review or discussion or extra class
  - Can be taught by professor or teaching assistant/tutor
  - Scheduled by School or by tutors
Typical ENGL first year course choices:

**ENG Major:**
- 2 List A introductory courses
- 2 List B introductory courses
- 1 List A or B
- Common Core (6 in 3 years)
- CAES 9202; CART 9001

**ENG Minor:**
- 1 List A introductory course
- 1 List B introductory course
- 1 List A or B
- Common Core (6 in 3 years)
- CAES 9202; CART 9001
Sample course choice:

- **ENGL 1025 List A**: Understanding Narrative (Lit)
- **ENGL 1051 List A**: English Phonetics (LCOM)
- **ENGL 1014 List B**: Imaginary Geographies (Lit)
- **CCST 9021**: Our Place in the Universe (CC)
- **JAPN 1088**: Japanese Language 1 (Elective)

- AVOID overload of courses
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Mon 5</th>
<th>Tue 6</th>
<th>Wed 7</th>
<th>Thu 8</th>
<th>Fri 9</th>
<th>Sat 10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 AM</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Mid-Autumn Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 AM</td>
<td>10:30 AM JAPN 1088 - Grammar</td>
<td>10:30 AM JAPN 1088 - Skills</td>
<td>10:30 AM ENG 1014 - Imaginary Geographies Lecture</td>
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<td>Noon</td>
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<td>1 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:15 PM ENGL 1015 - Phonetics Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 PM</td>
<td>1:30 PM ENG 1024 - Understanding Narrative Lecture</td>
<td></td>
<td>1:30 PM CCST 9012 - Tutorial</td>
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<td>3 PM</td>
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<td>3:15 PM ENG 1024 - Tutorial</td>
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<td>4 PM</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<td>Fri 9</td>
<td>Sat 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 AM</td>
<td>10:30 AM JAPN 1088 - Grammar</td>
<td>10:30 AM JAPN 1088 - Skills</td>
<td>10:30 AM ENG 1014 - Imaginary Geographies Lecture</td>
<td>11 AM Study Japanese grammar</td>
<td>11:30 AM Lunch</td>
<td>Mid-Autumn Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>12:30 PM ENG 1024 - Understanding Narrative Lecture</td>
<td>12:30 PM Lunch</td>
<td></td>
<td>12:30 PM ENGL 1015 - English Phonetics Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 PM</td>
<td>1:30 PM ENG 1024 - Understanding Narrative Lecture</td>
<td>1:45 PM Lunch</td>
<td>1:45 PM Lunch</td>
<td>1:30 PM CCST 9012 - Tutorial</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 PM</td>
<td>3 PM Read 40 Pages for 1014</td>
<td>2:45 PM Write up notes for tutorial CCST</td>
<td>2:30 PM Lunch</td>
<td>3:30 PM ENG 1024 - Tutorial</td>
<td>3 PM Hall volleyball match</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>4:15 PM Go over lecture notes on Syllables for 1024 tutorial</td>
<td></td>
<td>5 PM Study Japanese new...</td>
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<td>5 PM</td>
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<td>5 PM gym</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 PM</td>
<td>6 PM Study for Japanese...</td>
<td>6 PM ENG soc ceremony</td>
<td>6:30 PM CCST 9012 - Our place in the Universe Lecture</td>
<td>6 PM Read Chapter 1 of Abbot for ENG 1024</td>
<td>6 PM Read Prologue from Byatt for ENG 1024</td>
<td>6 PM Read 30 pages for ENG 1014</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>7 PM Read 40 pages for 1014</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 PM</td>
<td>8 PM Read 2 chapters for CCST</td>
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<td>8:30 PM Read 2 chapters for CCST</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 PM</td>
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<td>9 PM Study Japanese new...</td>
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<td>10 PM</td>
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</table>
The syllabus:

• Is a **contract** between students and professors
• Contains all the **basic information** about the course – when, where, why, how, what
• Contains all **required materials** to be purchased or provided
• Contains a **schedule** of all classes (lectures & tutorials & field trips etc).
• Contains the **due dates** of all assignments (papers, tests, presentations) for the term.
• Contains reading **schedule**: number of pages, chapters etc.
• May or may not contain information about the assignments.
• **Follow the syllabus, not SIS.**
• Read the **ENTIRE** syllabus before emailing your professors with questions.
ENGL2126 / LALS 3002
Law, Meaning and Interpretation
Instructor: Professor C.M. Hutton (chutton@hku.hk) (CH)
Office: School of English, Run Run Shaw Tower, Centennial Campus (Room 834)
3 timetabled hours per week (Friday, 2.30-5.20) (CPD-G.02)

Form of assessment: 100% coursework

Please note that there will be no lecture on Friday September 27 and that there will be a makeup class in Reading Week (Friday, October 18, 14:30 - 17:20, CPD-G.02).

INTRODUCTION

This course offers a multidisciplinary introduction to key debates on language and interpretation within legal theory, and to the interface between the study of language and the discipline of law. This course begins with an introduction to interpretation as reflecting a set of pervasive intellectual problems in the study of literature, religion, language and culture. It then moves on to the study of legal interpretation, focusing on word meaning in law. The course stresses the sociopolitical dimension to interpretative questions confronted by judges. The presentation of theories of language and law is complemented by exercises drawn from decided cases or which reflect real-life legal dilemmas. Law is seen in the context of issues such as authority and power; doubt and certainty; meaning and indeterminacy. No technical knowledge of law, literary theory or linguistics is required: students come to this course with different backgrounds and skills. The emphasis is on understanding and applying theory to real legal questions and problems.

ONE COURSE, TWO SYSTEMS

This course is in fact TWO courses in one: a BA and LALS course, but all with the same content. The courses are assessed relative to the background of the students: there is no “competition” between the different cohorts of students and no specified grade distribution.

TOPICS

1. An introduction to meaning and interpretation through examples: concepts, approaches and issues
2. Interpretation as pervasive in literature, religion and social interaction
3. Linguistic approaches to lexical meaning and questions of ambiguity, polysemy, vagueness, and
OBJECTIVES

Students will gain an understanding of the fundamental interpretative dilemmas of law, and the relationship of these both to the socio-political context of legal rules, and to debates within the humanities about interpretative authority. They will gain diagnostic and analytic skills in relation to language in legal problems, and an understanding of the limits of legal certainty.

ORGANISATION

The course has three timetabled hours per week. Unless otherwise indicated, the formal session will be TWO lecture hours. The basic plan is that each week there is a lecture, the discussion of a case, and an assigned reading (either a case or an article). The third hour will be used as indicated for informal discussion and exercises based on decided cases, plus student presentations. Students will be given weekly presentations outlining the basic concepts, and will be directed to relevant readings in law and other relevant journals. Attendance is not taken.

ASSESSMENT

The primary requirements are a mid-term short answer of 1500 words with an associated presentation (50% of final grade) and a final essay of 3000 words (70% of final grade). The final essay requires engagement both with actual cases and the theoretical debates introduced during the course.

TEXTS

There is no textbook. A list of course readings is provided below. There are many relevant journals, including the International Journal of Speech Language and the Law, Yale Journal of Law & Humanities, Law & Literature. The library has Hein-on-Line and Westlaw which contain a vast amount of material. Course materials and readings will be available on Moodle.

DEADLINES (provisional)

Mid-term essay November 4
Final essay: December 12
Submission via Moodle

**There is a 3 point penalty per day for late submission**

POINTS TO NOTE

No background in law, linguistics, or literary theory is assumed – but these are technical subjects with their own specialized terminology.

- The emphasis is on understanding and applying interpretative theory to real legal questions and related social problems.
- Cases are drawn from different periods and jurisdictions, in particular the United States. The course does not attempt to capture the current state of the law in any specific domain or jurisdiction, but rather is concerned with interpretative issues that are pervasive in common law adjudication. It takes a historical view, on the basis that certain questions appear more clearly with hindsight, and ideological and other socio-cultural elements of cases emerge into view with the passage of time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture topic</th>
<th>Case</th>
<th>3rd Hour</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Sept 6</td>
<td>Introduction to the course</td>
<td><strong>INTRODUCTION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Sept 13</td>
<td>Reading cases &amp; interpreting legal texts</td>
<td>Olmstead v United States (1928)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hutton (2014) [extract]</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Sept 20</td>
<td>Language and interpretation (I): law and religion</td>
<td>Liveridge v Anderson (1941)</td>
<td>Review/discussion session for ENGL2126</td>
<td>Jeroslav Pelikan (2004) [extract];</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-- Sept 27</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
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<td>midterm topics distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Textualism</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Scalia (1997)</td>
<td>Final essay topics distributed</td>
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</table>

**SELECTED TOPICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Persons &amp; personhood</th>
<th>Review/discussion session for ENGL2126</th>
<th>Hamilton (2008)</th>
<th>[extract]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Course Readings**

- Stinnett, John (2008) The original meaning of "unusual": The eighth amendment as a bar to cruel innovation. 102 Northwestern University Law Review 1739.

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- *Laversidge v Anderson* (1941)
- *Nis v Holden* (1893)
- *Riggs v Palmer* (1889)
- *McBride v United States* (1931)
- *Olmstead v United States* (1928)
- *People v Carney* (1981)
- *Re Rowland* (1963)
- *Revenue and Customs Commissioners v Prickett & Gable UK* (2008)
- *PETA v SeaWorld* (2011)
- *Re Goodall* (1876)
- *White City Shopping Center, LP v PR Restaurants* (2006)

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**KEY CASES**

- *Adler v George* (1964)
- *Apple Inc v Amazon.com Inc* (2011)
- *Bruni v Cegno* (1972)
- *California v Carney* (1985)
- *Church of the Holy Trinity v United States* (1892)
- *Department of Corrections v California Men's Colony, Unit 1* (1993)
- *Hayn v Pro-Football Inc* (2005)
- *Hong Kong Racing Pigeon Association v AG* (1994, 1995)
ENGL1014 Imaginary geographies: The art of writing place
[Section 2A, 2021]

General

Updated announcement about HKU's teaching modes

With reference to the message from the Task Force on Infectious Diseases, all UG classes will move online from January 24-31.

- News announcement
- Default course forum

Topic 1
- Dung Kai-Cheung - Atlas: The Archeology of an Imaginary City
- Conrad - Heart of Darkness
- Murata - Convenience Store Woman
- Delisle - Shenzhen
- Syllabus
Assignment due dates:

Semester 1:
- Mid-terms: around Reading Week
- Final papers: around December 15
- In-class final exams/tests: last week of semester

Semester 2:
- Mid-terms: around Reading Week
- Final papers: around May 15
- In-class final exams/tests: last week of semester

Professor grades 70+ papers; processed by School; audited by Chief Examiner; approved by Arts Faculty; processed by Registry; grades released to students.
Basics:

• **Attend** both tutorial *and* lectures
• Check your **HKU email** and **Moodle** regularly for communications from your professors and admin
• Where possible, purchase the books for the course or borrow from the library. **Do not rely on PDFs.**
• Attend the **library orientation** to familiarize yourself with a research library
• Know who to ask for **help**

• Add/drop period: **attend both the classes** you are adding and dropping until confirmed
• Contact hours (class) and independent study hours (outside of class)
• **Take your own notes** in every session including discussion: do not rely on recordings
• Profs are **not required** to provide you with notes, ppts, or provide you with make up classes when you are absent.
• **Be a professional student.**
What we expect from first year students:

- Curiosity
- Movement from summary of texts to analysis
- Gain familiarity with academic discourse
- Practice basic skills of literary analysis and sociolinguistics
- Gain familiarity with research skills
- Make connections between courses.
- Be able to share and listen to ideas in small and large groups
- Gain familiarity with discipline specific writing protocols
- Time management
- Appreciation of texts from different historical periods, cultures, genres, writers, disciplines etc.
- Respect for campus, staff personnel, faculty, students and others
Highschool ENG & ENG 1XXX:

• “To what extent is Gatsby a likeable character in *The Great Gatsby*.”
  (DSE Eng Lit elective)

• You are a reporter for Do-Re-Mi, a music magazine. You interviewed Zoe Kwan, who has just won ‘Best New Artist’ at the HKTV Music Awards. Write a feature article based on your interview. Report on Zoe’s sudden rise to fame and where the ideas behind her songs came from.
  (DSE Eng Lang)

• Writers of fiction do not always relate events in chronological order. In at least two works you have studied, explore the effects of telling the story in a non-chronological manner.
  (IB Eng)

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This second option is your free choice to explore a theme or question about the texts that has interested you this semester. In this option, you may discuss no more than TWO texts from the ENG 1014 syllabus. Your paper should be thesis-driven, it should use detailed close-readings you should provide textual evidence for your arguments from the novel(s) and from your scholarly research.

**Research component:**
This paper has a research component: you will need to use a minimum of TWO sources. One source should be scholarly: this source can be a journal article of literary criticism; a chapter from a book that explores the historical or cultural context of your chosen novel; or a scholarly article that explains a theory of place, for example. The second source should be from a reputable source such as an author interview, a book review, a newspaper article etc.

Below is a list of suggestions for your projects, feel free to adapt them as you like:

- We discussed the idea of surveillance in both *Horrorstor* and *Room*. What is the significance of panoptic structures in both novels? In places like Orsk and/or the media surrounding Jack and Ma what makes surveillance so important?
- Local history is extremely important to Dung’s attempt to defamiliarize us with Hong Kong as a space and refamiliarize us with Hong Kong as a place. In *The Arrival*, however, the protagonist’s experience in a new city suggests the opposite of familiarity. Write a paper in which you explore how the feeling of “local” emerges.
- Haunting has been a theme that has emerged in our reading of *Atlas* and of *Horrorstor*, why are possessed places, ghosts, exorcisms, the dead etc. so prevalent in our discussions of place?
- Women’s experiences and accounts of place have been important in our readings; characters such as the women of Mong Kok village, the 7 sisters of North Point, Amy and Ruth Anne, Ma, the daughter and immigrant women of *The Arrival* populate the texts we’ve read this term. How might focusing on some of these female characters add something different to our understanding or experience of place?
How to prepare:

Library Orientation for HKU Freshmen

Published by HKUL TSS under Breaking News
Tags: HKU Freshmen, Library Orientation

Join a HKU Freshmen Library Orientation and have the chance to win a coffee coupon or other gifts.

Register online to secure a place:

http://obelix.lib.hku.hk/cgi-bin/course/list_gp_m.cgi?category=6
BOOK NOW

WRITING CENTRE

SPEAKING STUDIO

DIGITAL LITERACY LAB

HOW TO BOOK

Scroll through the slideshow below for a quick guide on how to book our services.
WELCOME ABOARD!

Enjoy your first year experience @HKU
English Society, A.A.H.K.U.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

WICKED: NO GOOD DEED GOES UNPUNISHED

Orientation Camp
Date: 24/8–26/8
Location: HKU
Price: $420
($470 after 15/8)
Deadline: 19/8

Orientation Day
Date: 28/8
Location: HKU
Time: 10:00–19:00
Price: $100
Deadline: 26/8

For any enquiries, please contact Brandon Lo at brandon.hkuengsoc@gmail.com.
11. Useful Information and Contacts

❖ Programme Information
School webpage: [https://english.hku.hk/](https://english.hku.hk/)

❖ Programme Coordinator
Dr. Elizabeth Ho ([lizho@hku.hk](mailto:lizho@hku.hk))

❖ Programme Administrators
Ms. Mandy Leung ([mandyleung@hku.hk](mailto:mandyleung@hku.hk))
Mr. Tamix Wong ([tamix@hku.hk](mailto:tamix@hku.hk))
### 12. Student Sharing and Q&A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>About studies at HKU</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Introductory and advanced courses</td>
<td>Student representatives from English Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Advanced capstone courses (internship or research)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Demonstration of course selection</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Exchange studies abroad</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Study abroad opportunities</td>
<td>Angus (BA Year 4 who stayed at Oxford University in 2021-22)</td>
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### 12. Student Sharing and Q&A

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Extra-curricular activities: English Society</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. English Society</td>
<td>Student representatives from English Society</td>
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12. Q&A