

Welcome to the School of English

Established in the Faculty of Arts, one of the founding faculties of the University of Hong Kong, the School of English engages in research and provides instruction at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in Anglophone literary and cultural studies, English linguistics, and Language and Communication, and is actively involved in knowledge exchange. We offer the **English Studies (ES)** major and minor programme to students of Year 2 and above.

This programme handbook outlines the curriculum structure and requirements for the major/minor and lists the courses offered in the different areas. It also identifies some of the information resources that are available to help you make the most of your studies. Please visit the School webpage (<https://english.hku.hk>) regularly to find out which courses are offered in the current academic year, to get detailed course information and to learn about the School's activities and ongoing projects – and do also like our Facebook page (“HKU School of English”). For more comprehensive information on the BA programme, you may consult the Faculty webpage (<http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/BA>).

The School also collaborates with other Faculties in offering two double degree programmes: the BA&BEd in Language Education (English) and the BA&LLB. For more information about these programmes, please refer to https://web.edu.hku.hk/programme/babed_6066/ and <http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/BALLB> respectively.

When you study with us, language – in literary works and in everyday use, in the past and in contemporary times, as global language and in diverse multilingual contexts – will come alive as your understanding and appreciation of its role and relevance in society grows. Our courses aim to stimulate your intellectual curiosity, hone your analytical skills, challenge your critical thinking, and develop your reflective and reflexive practice, affording you opportunities for discovery, creativity, debate and social impact.

I look forward to seeing you in the School.

Professor Janny Leung
Head of School

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1. English Studies

English Studies is the scholarly investigation of the English language and its many uses in social and historical contexts. It prominently includes the study of literature(s) written in English, as well as creative writing. Both the language and the literatures are studied from multiple perspectives, linguistic ones and literary ones, and also include critical and cultural theoretical approaches. Our English Studies programme has a strong cross-cultural orientation, recognizing English as a language of global communication and world literature, a language which people make their own, creatively and habitually, all over the world. English Studies offers students both a solid foundation and a wide range of choices in various concentrations. Introductory courses emphasize the practice of critical reading, analysis and writing, as well as the development of historical and theoretical knowledge. Advanced courses focus on English language and literature as representations of culture and society in diverse historical contexts, on the production of meaning in different discursive contexts, genres and media, and on the place of English in relation to histories of colonization and globalization with special reference to Hong Kong and the region. A range of capstone courses, including research seminars, internships and senior colloquia, offer students opportunities to integrate and deploy their learning in the major while considering their options upon graduation.

On successful completion of the major or minor in English Studies, students should be able to:

- identify and analyze issues and topics in the study of English literature and linguistics through various approaches;
- formulate critical questions and investigate topics through research, analysis and writing;
- identify and express their own perspectives regarding disciplinary issues and compare them to those of others;
- demonstrate an appreciation of the global dimensions and cultural diversity within English language and literature;
- recognize and make use of various rhetorical and discursive features in the presentation, organization and discussion of ideas, observations, and arguments; and
- understand and articulate the relevance of English Studies in providing insight into the role of language and literature in culture and society.

The courses of the English Studies programme incorporate a variety of teaching and learning methods, including formal lectures, discussion-based seminars, small group tutorials, workshops, and online learning. They are mostly assessed by coursework, including participation, oral presentations, in-class tests and quizzes, essays and research projects and portfolios. They are designed to provide students with skills of accurate and historically sensitive analysis, critical reading and thinking, and clear and coherent argument in both writing and speaking.

Students are encouraged to discuss their study plans and course selections with the UG Coordinator, their Academic Advisers, or any teachers in the English Studies programme.

Major students who have successfully passed at least seven courses (three introductory courses and four advanced courses) with a literature OR language and communication focus, respectively, will be given a School of English certification, upon request, which attests to this specialization in the “Literature Stream” or “Language and Communication Stream.” If applicable, a dual recognition in both the “Literature Stream” and “Language and Communication Stream” is possible.

Please note that the declaration and certification of specialization stream(s) is optional and students can graduate with a major in English Studies without declaring any specialization stream(s).

Notes:

1. Courses affiliated to specialization streams are listed on the School’s website.
2. Neither the transcript nor the graduation certificate will show the specialization stream(s). If applicable, students may approach the School for certification of their specialization stream(s).

First-year Prerequisite

Students intending to declare a major or minor in English Studies in the second year must pass at least one introductory ENGL course from List A “Historical and Theoretical Foundations” (6 credits) in the first year.

Admission to all introductory courses is on the basis of academic record including a minimum Level 5 in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) examination, or an equivalent score in another recognized English proficiency test.

Major in English Studies (78 credits)

To complete the requirements of the major, students must take:

1. 30 credits of introductory courses (including the first-year prerequisite), normally taken in the first two years of study, which consist of:
 - (a) 12 credits from List A “Historical and Theoretical Foundations” (including the first-year prerequisite);
 - (b) 12 credits from List B “Critical Reading, Analysis and Writing”;
 - (c) 6 credits from either List A or List B; and
2. 48 credits of advanced courses, which must include a capstone course to be taken preferably in the final year.

Minor in English Studies (36 credits)

To complete the requirements of the minor, students must take:

1. 18 credits of introductory courses, which consist of:
 - (a) 6 credits of the first-year prerequisite from List A “Historical and Theoretical Foundations”;
 - (b) 6 credits from List B “Critical Reading, Analysis and Writing”;
 - (c) 6 credits from either List A or List B; and
2. 18 credits of advanced courses.

Introductory Courses

List A: Historical and Theoretical Foundations

The courses in this list will introduce students to the history and organization of diverse areas of literary and linguistic scholarship. Students will acquire a general overview of selected areas and issues, including major theoretical distinctions or classifications and their historical development over time.

- ENGL1011. An introduction to the study of meaning (6 credits)
- ENGL1013. Exploring the modern: Reading early 20th century British writing (6 credits)
- ENGL1015. Introduction to English linguistics (6 credits)
- ENGL1016. Introduction to life writing (6 credits)
- ENGL1017. Introduction to sociolinguistics (6 credits)
- ENGL1018. Language and gender (6 credits)
- ENGL1020. Nineteenth-century literature and culture (6 credits)
- ENGL1022. Poetry past and present (6 credits)
- ENGL1023. Experimental prose (6 credits)
- ENGL1024. Topics in world literature (6 credits)
- ENGL1025. Understanding narratives (6 credits)
- ENGL1037. Persuasion (6 credits)
- ENGL1044. Introduction to literary theory (6 credits)
- ENGL1045. "Community" in Sociolinguistics (6 credits)
- ENGL1051. English sounds (6 credits)
- ENGL1056. Introduction to language and communication (6 credits)
- ENGL1057. Language, communication, society, field (6 credits)
- ENGL1058. Theorizing communication (6 credits)
- ENGL1059. Introduction to pragmatics (6 credits)

List B: Critical Reading, Analysis and Writing

The courses in this list will introduce students to the practice and methods of critical reading, analysis and writing, focusing on different areas of literary and linguistic study. Students will acquire a basic grasp of analytical distinctions and terminology, and learn to ask questions and construct critical arguments.

- ENGL1014. Imaginary geographies: The art of writing place (6 credits)
- ENGL1026. Adaptation: From text to screen (6 credits)
- ENGL1027. Analyzing discourse (6 credits)
- ENGL1028. Awakenings: Exploring women's writing (6 credits)
- ENGL1030. Dramatic changes: Versions of Renaissance literature (6 credits)
- ENGL1031. English grammar(s) (6 credits)
- ENGL1032. Late Victorian Texts and Contexts (6 credits)
- ENGL1033. Intercultural communication (6 credits)
- ENGL1034. Language and prejudice (6 credits)
- ENGL1035. Language crimes (6 credits)

- ENGL1036. Meaning and metaphor (6 credits)
- ENGL1038. Practice of criticism (6 credits)
- ENGL1039. Realism and representation (6 credits)
- ENGL1040. Rewriting and writing back (6 credits)
- ENGL1041. Modernity and literary modernism (6 credits)
- ENGL1042. World Englishes (6 credits)
- ENGL1043. An introduction to 20th-century English poetry (6 credits)
- ENGL1047. The English lexicon (6 credits)
- ENGL1048. Crime stories (6 credits)
- ENGL1049. Early English sonnets (6 credits)
- ENGL1050. An introduction to qualitative research methods in sociolinguistics (6 credits)
- ENGL1052. Introduction to theatre studies (6 credits)
- ENGL1053. Eighteenth century drama: The rise of celebrity culture (6 credits)
- ENGL1054. Writing disaster: Literature, trauma, memory (6 credits)
- ENGL1055. Language myths and realities (6 credits)

Advanced Courses

In order to enroll in any advanced course in English Studies, students must normally have completed 18 credits of introductory courses, with at least 6 credits from both List A and List B.

Additional prerequisite for a capstone course:

Final-year students normally should have completed 30 credits of introductory courses and 24 credits of advanced courses in the major (including transferred credits).

- ENGL2002. Language in society (6 credits)
- ENGL2004. English syntax (6 credits)
- ENGL2007. Literary linguistics (6 credits)
- ENGL2010. English novel (6 credits)
- ENGL2012. Contemporary literary theory (6 credits)
- ENGL2030. New Englishes (6 credits)
- ENGL2035. Reading poetry (6 credits)
- ENGL2039. Gender, sexuality and discourse (6 credits)
- ENGL2045. Travel writing (6 credits)
- ENGL2047. English discourse structures and strategies (6 credits)
- ENGL2048. Language and jargon (6 credits)
- ENGL2050. English corpus linguistics (6 credits)
- ENGL2055. American Gothic: Haunted homes (6 credits)
- ENGL2057. Text and image (6 credits)
- ENGL2074. Postcolonial readings (6 credits)
- ENGL2075. The idea of China (6 credits)
- ENGL2076. Romanticism (6 credits)
- ENGL2078. The novel today (6 credits)
- ENGL2079. Shakespeare (6 credits)
- ENGL2080. Women, feminism and writing (6 credits)
- ENGL2085. Creative writing (6 credits)
- ENGL2089. Making Americans: Literature as ritual and renewal (6 credits)
- ENGL2097. Imagining Hong Kong (6 credits)
- ENGL2103. Language and digital media (6 credits)
- ENGL2104. Language in the USA (6 credits)
- ENGL2112. An introduction to the history of English (6 credits)
- ENGL2115. Theories of language acquisition (6 credits)
- ENGL2117. English phonology and morphology (6 credits)
- ENGL2118. Law and literature (6 credits)
- ENGL2119. English in Hong Kong: Making it your own (6 credits)
- ENGL2120. Science fiction (6 credits)
- ENGL2122. Global Victorians (6 credits)
- ENGL2123. Language and identity in Hong Kong (6 credits)
- ENGL2125. English construction grammar (6 credits)
- ENGL2126. Law, meaning, and interpretation (6 credits)

- ENGL2127. Language and the law (6 credits)
- ENGL2128. Modernism (6 credits)
- ENGL2129. English as a language of science (6 credits)
- ENGL2130. Signs, language and meaning: Integrational reflections (6 credits)
- ENGL2131. The critic as artist (6 credits)
- ENGL2134. World literature (6 credits)
- ENGL2135. The cosmopolitan imagination (6 credits)
- ENGL2136. Cross-cultural discourses (6 credits)
- ENGL2137. The profession of playwright in early modern England (6 credits)
- ENGL2138. Language and globalization (6 credits)
- ENGL2139. American modern (6 credits)
- ENGL2140. Ideologies of language past and present (6 credits)
- ENGL2141. Doing discourse analysis (6 credits)
- ENGL2142. Milton (6 credits)
- ENGL2143. Religion and the flourishing of English (6 credits)
- ENGL2144. Forms of contemporary literature (6 credits)
- ENGL2145. Post-1945 English drama (6 credits)
- ENGL2146. Cognitive semantics (6 credits)
- ENGL2147. Joyce's voices (6 credits)
- ENGL2149. American dreaming (6 credits)
- ENGL2150. The city and modernity (6 credits)
- ENGL2152. Theory of the novel (6 credits)
- ENGL2153. Literary London (6 credits)
- ENGL2156. Eighteenth-century British literature (6 credits)
- ENGL2157. Representations of justice in law and literature (6 credits)
- ENGL2158. Language processing and learning (6 credits)
- ENGL2159. Twenty-first century English poetry (6 credits)
- ENGL2160. Sovereignty in law, theory and culture (6 credits)
- ENGL2161. Language rights and linguistic justice (6 credits)
- ENGL2162. Where the wild things are: Children's literature and the law (6 credits)
- ENGL2163. Comics, graphic novels and theory (6 credits)
- ENGL2164. The beginnings of English law and literature (6 credits)
- ENGL2165. Legal fictions: United States citizenship and the right to write in America (6 credits)
- ENGL2166. English phonetics (6 credits)
- ENGL2167. Theatre and the world (6 credits)
- ENGL2168. The law of signs: Interpretative controversies in legal semiotics (6 credits)
- ENGL2169. Writing and violence (6 credits)
- ENGL2170. Cringy: The aesthetics of discomfort (6 credits)
- ENGL2171. The right to the city: Cultural politics in Hong Kong and London (6 credits)
- ENGL2172. The police in literature and culture (6 credits)
- ENGL2173. Magic, monsters and maidens fair: Medieval English literature (6 credits)
- ENGL2174. Shakespeare and the law (6 credits)
- ENGL2175. Bad identities (6 credits)
- ENGL2176. Writing Asian diasporas (6 credits)

- ENGL2177. Reading and rereading Jane Austen (6 credits)
- ENGL2178. Language and art (6 credits)
- ENGL2179. Theories of language and communication (6 credits)
- ENGL2180. Language in the workplace (6 credits)
- ENGL2181. Language and politeness (6 credits)
- ENGL2182. Language, communication and the media (6 credits)
- ENGL2183. Language, communication and globalization (6 credits)
- ENGL2184. Visual communication (6 credits)
- ENGL2185. Health communication, 'healthy' communication (6 credits)
- ENGL2186. Language and religion (6 credits)
- ENGL2187. The language of news media (6 credits)

Capstone Courses

- ENGL3040. Internship in English studies (capstone experience) (6 credits)
- ENGL3041. Senior colloquium in English studies (capstone experience) (6 credits)
- ENGL3042. Extended essay in English studies (capstone experience) (6 credits)

Course descriptions: See https://english.hku.hk/Undergraduate/Curriculum/English_Studies

2. Academic advising in the School of English

Apart from this programme handbook, you should visit the School webpage (<https://english.hku.hk>) for up-to-date information on course offerings and detailed course information (including form of assessment, organisation, prescribed reading, etc.). Consult the BA Regulations and Syllabuses and the Faculty webpage (<https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/BA>) for comprehensive information on the curricular options and requirements of the BA programme.

If you are interested in any of the major or minor programmes offered by the School of English or have a question about them, feel free to approach either the Undergraduate Coordinator or the administrative staff at the School Office. The UG Coordinator can advise you on the requirements of a major/minor and help you identify your academic interest, form study plans and develop career goals. Teachers of individual courses can advise you on how best to study for a particular course and will be happy to discuss your academic interests with you. The UG Internship Coordinator can advise you on the requirements of ENGL3040 Internship in English Studies (capstone experience) (Webpage: <https://english.hku.hk/course/ENGL3040>). If you have questions about compliance with regulations, application for credit transfer and online course enrolment, do not hesitate to consult the School Office. And if you encounter any difficulties in your studies or are unable to attend classes, make sure you contact your teachers and seek advice. Outside class, e-mail is often the best way to contact teachers.

Do not hesitate to seek help from the administrative staff at the Arts Faculty Office if you need advice regarding compliance with the BA regulations and graduation requirements.

3. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Course Selection and Credit Transfer

1. Can I take an introductory ENGL course if I got Level 4 in English Language HKDSE exam?

Normally, a minimum Level 5 in English Language HKDSE exam is required for admission to any of the introductory courses. You can apply for special consideration if you have other equivalent qualifications such as IELTS, TOEFL, GCSE, etc. and submit the proof to the School Office before or during the course selection period.

2. I am a non-JUPAS applicant and did not sit for the HKDSE exam; can I still qualify to take an introductory course?

Yes, you simply have to submit a copy of your equivalent qualification(s), such as IELTS, TOEFL, GCSE, IB Diploma, etc., to the School Office for consideration during the course selection period.

3. Between the two main fields of English literary studies and English linguistics, I am more interested in one field. Can I take all the advanced courses in the same one field to fulfil my English Studies major?

Yes, you are free to choose advanced courses from the syllabus according to your interest. We encourage you to define your interest with an open mind, however, and not to focus too narrowly on a small number of courses or a particular specialization in English Studies. Our curriculum offers you various attractive concentrations in the major and in order to make most of the programme, you do well to balance your interests between different aspects of English Studies, so as to explore interesting connections. You are advised to consult the UG Coordinator or any teachers in the School regarding your study plan in the major.

4. How can I enrol in ENGL3042 Extended essay in English studies (capstone experience)?

ENGL3042 is primarily offered to outstanding final-year students enrolled in the Undergraduate Research Fellowship Programme (URFP) to pursue an advanced research project under the guidance of a supervisor. The Faculty of Arts will invite academically

outstanding third-year students to join the URFP in the next academic year which offers them an opportunity to undertake research under the guidance of a supervisor.

Students enrolled in the URFP are required to complete 12 credits in research-focused courses in the major (ENGL3042, in conjunction with an advanced ENGL course either completed before, or to be taken concurrently with ENGL3042 in the same semester), admission to which is considered at the School level. The School Office will contact the eligible candidates individually about the ENGL3042 course admission procedures. A remark on the URFP will be recorded on students' academic transcripts upon completion of the requirements. For details on the URFP, please visit

<http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/BA/URFP>.

5. Can I transfer the credits gained from exchange studies to the major or minor in English Studies? What are the application procedures for credit transfer?

Yes, if the courses which you are going to take on exchange are comparable to the introductory or advanced courses listed in the relevant syllabus. Please note that it is not necessary to do course mapping between HKU's and your host institution's courses. In other words, students may apply for credit transfer for courses which either exist or do not exist in HKU.

Under the Faculty cap policy on credit transfer, up to 50% of the transferred credits to HKU can be counted towards the declared Arts major/minor. Transferred credits in excess of the cap will be counted as free electives for the undergraduate degree programme.

Regarding the Faculty's application procedures, students are required to:

- (a) seek preliminary approval for credit transfer before their departure for exchange;
- (b) confirm their finalized course enrolment for credit transfer during exchange; and
- (c) provide a copy of the academic transcript to show they have passed the courses.

Please refer to the School's and Faculty's webpages for details on credit transfer:

School of English:

https://english.hku.hk/Undergraduate/Credit_Transfer

Faculty of Arts:

<https://arts.hku.hk/current-students/student-global-experience/study-abroad/credit-transfer>

Declaration of Major/Minor

6. What are the main characteristics of the major offered by the School of English?

Our major will offer students a stronger foundation in critical reading, analysis and writing and in historical and theoretical knowledge. This will enable a more effective progression through the four years. Students are required to take three introductory courses (at least one from both List A and List B) before taking the advanced courses. The majors also offer students a wide range of choices in various concentrations and a capstone experience in the senior years. A capstone experience focuses on the integration and application of knowledge, which may take the form of research or experiential learning like internships, overseas fieldtrips, etc.

7. What do I need to do in order to declare a major or a minor in the School of English?

You have to successfully complete one introductory ENGL course from List A “Historical and theoretical foundations” (6 credits) as a prerequisite before you can declare a major or a minor in the School. If you complete the prerequisite in the first year, you can declare the major online during the course selection period at the beginning of the second year. A major consists of 13 courses (78 credits) and a minor consists of 6 courses (36 credits).

8. How many introductory courses do I have to take if I want to declare a major in the School of English or enrol in advanced courses offered by the School?

You have to take at least one introductory course from List A as a prerequisite in order to declare a major. It is best to take the prerequisite in the first year. Altogether, you will have to complete 5 introductory courses (with at least 2 from each list) in the first two years in order to fulfill the requirement of the major. And you have to complete 3 introductory courses (with at least one from each list) before you can enrol in any advanced courses offered by the School of English.

Plagiarism and Undergraduate Research Ethics

9. What is plagiarism and what happens if a student is found to have committed plagiarism?

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". In other words, you are committing plagiarism if you paraphrase or quote the work of another person without clearly identifying (according to academic conventions) the borrowed material and documenting its source.
- **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". For instance, if a student re-uses largely or fully the contents of his/her past assignment submitted elsewhere and without acknowledging so in the "new" assignment, it can constitute self-plagiarism.

Plagiarism is a very serious offence and offenders may be failed not only in the plagiarised oral or written assignment but also in the course. Their case will also be considered by a School panel and may involve disclosure of the plagiarism committed to teachers of other courses within the School or lodging of a complaint with the University's Disciplinary Committee. Students are advised to read the following webpage carefully in order to avoid plagiarism: https://english.hku.hk/General_Information/Plagiarism_Warning

10. When do I have to apply for departmental ethics review?

As stipulated in the University's Policy for Ethical Practice in Research, undergraduate students who are undertaking a research project involving the consent of human participants must apply for ethics review. An application form for departmental ethics review of undergraduate research projects can be downloaded via https://english.hku.hk/departmental_ethics_review.doc and needs to be submitted to the Research Supervisor for endorsement.

4. Useful Contacts

UG Coordinator:

Dr. Elizabeth Ho (English Studies):

lizho@hku.hk

UG Internship Coordinator:

Please refer to the following webpage:

<https://english.hku.hk/course/ENGL3040>

School Office:

Ms. Mandy Leung (School Manager):

mandyleung@hku.hk

Mr. Tamix Wong (Senior Executive Assistant):

tamix@hku.hk

General Enquiries:

(852) 3917 2755

Fax:

(852) 2559 7139

Location:

Room 7.35, Run Run Shaw Tower,
Centennial Campus,
The University of Hong Kong

Website:

<https://english.hku.hk>

Facebook:



Like “HKU School of English”
on Facebook

5. Important Dates for 2021-22

≈ Course Selection Period ≈

(course selection for the entire academic year)

Second-, Third- and Fourth-Year Students:

Online course selection system opens for preview
Course selection for second-, third- and fourth year
students

Suspension period:

Jul. 26, 2021

Aug. 4 (10:00) – Aug. 10, 2021 (16:00)

Aug. 5, 2021 (09:00 – 14:29)

First-Year Students:

Online course selection system opens for preview

Course selection

Suspension period:

After performing master registration in
August 2021

Aug. 20 (10:00) – Aug. 26, 2021 (16:00)

Aug. 21 (12:00) – Aug. 23, 2021 (14:29)

≈ First Semester ≈

First day of teaching

Add/drop period to amend course enrolments

Suspension period:

Reading/Field trip week

Last day of teaching

Revision Period

Assessment Period

Sept. 1, 2021

Sept. 1 (10:00) – Sept. 15, 2021 (16:00)

Sept. 2, 2021 (12:00 – 16:59)

Oct. 11 – 16, 2021

Nov. 30, 2021

Dec. 1 – 7, 2021

Dec. 8 – 23, 2021

≈ Second Semester ≈

First day of teaching

Add/drop period to amend course enrolments

Suspension period:

Class suspension for the Lunar New Year

Reading/Field trip week

Last day of teaching

Revision Period

Assessment Period

Jan. 17, 2022

Jan. 17 (10:00) – Jan. 31, 2022 (13:00)

Jan. 18, 2022 (12:00 – 16:59)

Feb. 1 – 7, 2022

Mar. 7 – 12, 2022

Apr. 30, 2022

May 2 – 7, 2022

May 9 – 28, 2022

≈ Optional Summer Semester ≈

Teaching and assessment

Jun. 27 – Aug. 20, 2022

August 2021