

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

*(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: Art History, Chinese Historical Studies; Chinese Language and Literature; English Studies; Linguistics; Literary and Cultural Studies; and Translation. These fields of study will not necessarily be offered every year.

### **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 with honours 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 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;
  - (iii) 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 honours with a major in Chinese or a closely related subject;
  - (iv) 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 honours with a major in English 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 Linguistics, a Bachelor's degree with honours with a major in Linguistics 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 Translation, a professional qualification deemed to be equivalent to a Bachelor's degree with honours; and
- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

### **MA 2 Qualifying examination**

- (a) A qualifying examination 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.

<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 Chinese Historical Studies and the MA in Chinese Language and Literature); and
- (b) IELTS: a minimum overall Band of 7 with no subtest lower than 5.5.

- (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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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 field of Art History, 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 two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of four academic years;
  - (iii) in the field of English Studies, 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;
  - (iv) in the field of Linguistics, over one academic year of full-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years; and
  - (v) in the field of Literary and Cultural Studies, 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 amount 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.

### **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.

### **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) 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 MA Board of Examiners, 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 MA Board of Examiners.
- (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 MA Board of Examiners, but no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester).
- (e) There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

### **MA 9 Discontinuation**

Candidates who

- (a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-examination/re-submission in any written examination or coursework assessment in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners or to repeat the failed course(s); or
- (b) are not permitted to revise and re-present the capstone experience; or
- (c) have failed to satisfy the examiners on second attempt in any coursework assessment, examination, or the capstone experience; or
- (d) have failed more than two courses, excluding the capstone experience, on the first attempt in an academic year; or
- (e) have exceeded the maximum period of registration as specified in MA 4

may be required to discontinue their studies under the provisions of General Regulation G 12.

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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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### **MA 11 Supplementary examination**

Candidates who are unable because of illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves for a supplementary examination of the same course. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of absence from any examination. The supplementary examination shall be held at a time to be determined by the MA Board of Examiners. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in the supplementary examination shall be considered as failure on the first attempt.

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## **SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS**

### **CHINESE HISTORICAL STUDIES**

#### PURPOSE

The MA in Chinese Historical Studies curriculum aims at providing students with the requisite knowledge and training to conduct independent research in Chinese history. It also caters for the continuing education needs of secondary school teachers in Chinese history and culture.

#### CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

The curriculum includes several semester-length courses in Chinese historical materials and methodology, Chinese historiography, and various topics related to the history and culture of imperial, modern and contemporary China.

Students in this curriculum are required to complete eight courses (4 core and 4 elective) and a dissertation. Coursework teaching is held from September of the first year until December of the following year. There are usually three sessions of two contact hours per week.

Ten courses will be selected from the following categories and be taught in each cycle.

#### **Core Courses**

**CHIN6007. Imperial China: Thematic Studies (6 credits)**

This course examines the political development of successive dynasties and their significance in the overall context of Chinese history. Major institutional establishments and cultural achievements of different historical periods will also be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**CHIN6008. Republican and Communist China: Thematic Studies (6 credits)**

This course examines the political, social and economic development of China in the twentieth century. Special attention is given to the themes of nationalism, revolution and modernization. It aims to show how present-day China has evolved from its recent past.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**CHIN7005. New Approaches to Chinese History (6 credits)**

This course attempts to explore the new research approaches and trends in Chinese history studies, especially after the rise of the “China-centered” approach in the US in the 1980s. Apart from assessing the academic achievements of the mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong, East Asia and the West, it also evaluates the roles and limitations of social theories and methods in Chinese historical studies. Scholars with different research interests and expertise will be invited to share their experience with the students in the lectures.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**CHIN7006. An Introduction to Documentary Sources in Chinese (6 credits)**

This course will appeal not only to students majoring in Chinese history but to students looking to incorporate Chinese sources into their research. Both academic knowledge and practical skills are emphasized across the course curriculum. The academic knowledge imparted ranges from explanations of the classification and circulation of traditional Chinese documents to an introduction to the ideas of noted bibliographers, the special features of major overseas Chinese collections and the latest research output on documentary sources in Chinese published by foreign scholars. In addition to demonstrating how to search different kinds of documentary resources, including Internet resources, the practical skills delivered include the ability to read primary historical documents. Students are also presented with case studies elaborating the use of documentary sources in pursuit of historical research.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**CHIN7007. An Introduction to Archival Sources in Chinese (6 credits)**

This course is designed to introduce students to the special features of archival sources in Chinese, and enable them to progress to a higher level of proficiency in undertaking Chinese historical studies. Both academic knowledge and practical use of these sources are emphasized across the course curriculum. The course starts with an introduction to the types, compilation and collection of archival sources in Chinese, and then assesses the experience of noted historians in using archival treasures for academic research and analyzes the construction of pre-modern to contemporary Chinese history through these sources, before concluding with a review of archival research in Hong Kong studies. It will demonstrate how to search the major archival collections deposited in local, national and overseas institutions and guide students in reading primary archival documents. Case studies elaborating the

use of these sources in pursuit of historical research will also be provided.  
Assessment: 100% coursework

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## **Elective Courses**

### A History

#### **CHIN6011. Education and Examination: the Chinese Experience (6 credits)**

This course examines the history of the Chinese education and examination systems, surveys the changing thoughts about the relation of education, examination and talent nurturing, analyses the impacts of education and examination on politics, economics and society, and critically assesses the roles played by Western education and examination models in the modernization of China.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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#### **CHIN6012. Chinese Migration History: Inland and Overseas (6 credits)**

This course examines the migration history of Chinese from ancient times to early twentieth century. Topics discussed include the backgrounds and motives of the migrants, the routes they took, their destinations, and their adaptations to their new homes. Special attention will be given to the emigrants of Qing China, their continuous conflicts with local residents, and how the problems they faced and the solutions they adopted reflect certain features of Chinese culture.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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#### **CHIN7002. Chinese Historiography (6 credits)**

This course provides a broad and systematic overview of the origins and development of Chinese historiography. It examines in detail the teachings of leading Chinese historians and historiographers, both ancient and modern.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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#### **CHIN7008. Intellectual History of Pre-Qin China (6 credits)**

This course investigates the origin and development of the pre-Qin Chinese thought. With an understanding of the contents and development of the pre-Qin Chinese thought, students can acquire a solid background in Chinese intellectual history and thereby can decipher the intellectual and cultural foundation behind the historical developments of China thereafter. The bulk of the course will be about the various schools of thought of the Eastern Zhou period. The course will center upon the four major pre-Qin schools of thought: Confucianism, Mohism, Daoism and Legalism. As a supplement, other minor schools of thought will also be covered.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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#### **CHIN7011. History education: the Chinese Experience (6 credits)**

This course provides a broad and systematic overview of the origins and development of history education from ancient time to the present in China. It examines in detail the changing thoughts about history education and analyses the impacts of history education on different aspects of the society.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**CHIN7012. The Historical Geography of China (6 credits)**

This course is about historical geography of China. Imperial China was a big country with a vast territory. The highly diverse and complex terrain divided the country into many regions with different developments. The terrain characteristics also significantly influenced the decision on the selection of location for the capital and the administrative district planning in all dynasties. Besides, climate change was another major factor affecting agricultural activity, people's livelihood and also political stability. This course will review the influence of geography on political and economic developments in Imperial China. With an understanding of the above contents, students can understand the importance of the geographic factors in Chinese History.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**CHIN7013. Hong Kong since 1842 (6 credits)**

The aim of this course is to equip students with necessary knowledge on, and enhance their ability to pursue research on, the history of Hong Kong from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> to late-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Political, diplomatic, social, cultural, educational and religious issues are introduced, and their interrelated connections discussed, from the historical perspective. Emphasis is placed on training students in the reading of first-hand Chinese historical sources.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**B Culture****CHIN6301. Special Topics in Confucian Classics (6 credits)**

Texts in the Confucian canon will be examined in great detail and their import highlighted.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**CHIN6303. Special Topics in Chinese Thought and Chinese Literature (6 credits)**

The intimate relation between Chinese thought and Chinese literature will be examined with reference to sample literary works.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**CHIN6304. Special Topics in Chinese Culture (6 credits)**

Chinese culture in its myriad forms will be studied, the emphasis being placed on its unique features and its impact on global developments.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**CHIN6305. Special Topics in Chinese Bibliographical and Textual Studies (6 credits)**

Bibliographies and texts of various types will be studied with the use of different methodological approaches.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**CHIN7009. Traditional Chinese Thought and Its Modern Transformation (6 credits)**

This course attempts to explore the characteristics of traditional Chinese thought, and investigate how it underwent a modern transformation in a period of rapid change in the nineteenth century. The course will analyze how the pre-modern Chinese mode of thinking in the political, economic, and social aspects was dominated by Confucianism and later Neo-Confucianism, and how it eventually transformed itself into the modern times under the challenges of Western learning in the late Qing. In addition, the contemporary meanings of those traditional ideas nowadays shared by the Chinese will also be discussed in the lectures.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**CHIN7010. Modern Chinese Intellectual Trends and Intellectuals (6 credits)**

This course explores the intellectual and cultural trends and the thoughts of the leading Chinese intellectuals in twentieth-century China. It is divided into two parts. The first part examines the intellectual fermentation from the late Qing to the Republican periods. The second part analyzes the thoughts of the intellectuals under the domination of Communist ideology from 1949 to the reform era. It covers the establishment of a modern education system modelled upon the West, the decline of traditional Confucian culture, Chinese elite and their thoughts after the May Fourth Movement, and the intellectual development under the Communist rule. Some best-known historical figures will be selected for case study.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**Capstone Experience****CHIN7999. Capstone Experience: Dissertation in Chinese Historical Studies (12 credits)**

The dissertation should normally be around 20,000-30,000 characters in Chinese or 10,000-15,000 words in English. It should be submitted by the end of June of the second year of study. A topic should be submitted for approval by the end of June of the first year of study. On approval of the dissertation topic, a supervisor will be assigned to each candidate.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**Assessments**

Courses are assessed by coursework as specified in the descriptions of individual courses. Coursework assessment is based on essays, term papers, projects, tests, or other kinds of oral or written work as prescribed by the course instructors.

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**Medium of Instruction**

Courses will be generally conducted in Cantonese but a number of them may be taught in Putonghua.