Welcome to the School of English

Established in 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 literary and cultural studies, English linguistics and Language and Communication.

We offer two majors and two minors in the second, third and fourth years:

(1) English Studies (ES)
(2) Language and Communication (L&C)

This programme handbook outlines the curriculum structure and requirements for each of the majors/minors and lists the courses offered in the different areas. It also identifies some of the advisory resources that are available to help you make the most of your studies. Please visit the School webpage (http://www.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. For more comprehensive information on the BA programme, you may consult the Faculty webpage (http://arts.hku.hk/BAprogramme/).

The School also contributes to the teaching of the BA&BEd in Language Education (English) and the BA(Literary Studies)&LLB double degree programmes. For more information about these programmes please refer to http://web.edu.hku.hk/programme/babet_6066/ or http://arts.hku.hk/BAprogramme/BA_LLH/

Our courses aim to stimulate your intellectual curiosity, hone your analytical skills and challenge your critical thinking. They will offer you opportunities for discovery, creativity and debate.

I look forward to seeing you in the School.

Dr. Dirk Noël
Head, School of English

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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 literatures are studied from multiple perspectives, linguistic ones and literary ones, and also including critical and cultural theory. 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. It 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.

The courses of the English Studies major incorporate a variety of teaching and learning methods, including formal lectures, seminars, small group tutorials, workshops, and online learning. They are mostly assessed by coursework, including 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 their Academic Advisers or any teacher in the School of English.

Requirements and Syllabus

First-year Prerequisite

Students intending to major or minor in English Studies 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 a C grade in the Use of English AS-level exam, or their equivalents.

Introductory Courses

Prospective majors are required to take 30 credits of introductory courses (including the prerequisite to be taken in the first year), normally taken in the first two years of study, which must include:

a. At least 12 credits from List A “Historical and Theoretical Foundations”; and
b. At least 12 credits from List B “Critical Reading, Analysis and Writing”.

Prospective minors are required to take 18 credits of introductory courses, with at least 6 credits from List A and 6 credits from List B.
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)
ENGL1012. Language as social action (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)
ENGL1019. Literature and imitation (6 credits)
ENGL1020. Nineteenth-century literature and culture (6 credits)
ENGL1021. Nineteenth-century literature and culture (6 credits)
ENGL1022. Poetry past and present (6 credits)
ENGL1023. The view from nowhere: 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)

LCOM1002. Language, communication, society, field (6 credits)
LCOM1003. Theorizing communication (6 credits)
LCOM1004. 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)
ENGL1029. Drama: Comedy and renewal (6 credits)
ENGL1030. Dramatic changes: Versions of Renaissance literature (6 credits)
ENGL1031. English grammar(s) (6 credits)
ENGL1032. Victorian 'high' and 'low' fiction (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 matters (6 credits)
ENGL1043. An introduction to 20th-century English poetry (6 credits)
Advanced Courses

Students declaring a major are required to take 48 credits in advanced courses from the list below, which must include a 6-credit capstone course to be taken preferably in the final year. Students declaring a minor have to take 18 credits of advanced courses. Students are encouraged to discuss their study plans and course selections with their Academic Advisers or any teacher in the School of English.

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.

ENGL2002. Language in society (6 credits)
ENGL2004. English syntax (6 credits)
ENGL2007. Literary linguistics (6 credits)
ENGL2010. English novel I (6 credits)
ENGL2011. English novel II (6 credits)
ENGL2012. Contemporary literary theory (6 Credits)
ENGL2022. Women, feminism and writing I (6 credits)
ENGL2030. World Englishes (6 credits)
ENGL2031. The semantics and pragmatics of English (6 credits)
ENGL2035. Reading poetry (6 credits)
ENGL2039. Gender 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)
ENGL2069. Form and meaning (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 II (6 credits)
ENGL2085. Creative writing I (6 credits)
ENGL2086. Creative writing II (6 credits)
ENGL2089. Making Americans: Literature as ritual and renewal (6 credits)
ENGL2092. Postcolonial English (6 credits)
ENGL2093. Literary islands: English poetry and prose from the South Pacific and the Caribbean (6 credits)
ENGL2095. The East: Asia in English writing (6 credits)
ENGL2097. Imagining Hong Kong (6 credits)
ENGL2099. Language, identity, and Asian Americans (6 credits)
ENGL2101. Culture and society (6 credits)
ENGL2103. Language and new 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 and utopia (6 credits)
ENGL2121. Comedy, renewal, and cross-cultural drama (6 credits)
ENGL2122. Victorians at home and abroad (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. Legal discourse and the mind (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)
ENGL2132. Cross-cultural issues and theories (6 credits)
ENGL2133. Topics in cross-cultural studies: Disciplinarity, methodology, and politics (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 in early modernity (6 credits)
ENGL2141. Doing discourse analysis (6 credits)
ENGL2142. Milton (6 credits)
ENGL2143. Religion and the flourishing of English: 1382-1611 (6 credits)
ENGL2144. Forms of contemporary literature (6 credits)
ENGL2145. Twentieth-century drama (6 credits)

LCOM2001. Theories of language and communication (6 credits)
LCOM2002. Language in the workplace (6 credits)
LCOM2003. Language and politeness (6 credits)
LCOM2004. Language, communication and the media (6 credits)
LCOM2005. Language, communication and globalization (6 credits)
LCOM2007. Visual communication (6 credits)
LCOM2008. Health communication, ‘healthy’ communication (6 credits)

Capstone Courses

ENGL3032. Advanced topics in English studies (12 credits)
ENGL3033. Research seminar in English studies (6 credits)
ENGL3034. Research seminar in English literary studies (6 credits)
ENGL3036. Research seminar in English linguistics (6 credits)
ENGL3037. Research seminar in language and society (6 credits)
ENGL3039. Research seminar in cross-cultural studies in English (6 credits)
ENGL3040. Internship in English studies (6 credits)
ENGL3041. Senior colloquium in English studies (6 credits)
ENGL3042. Extended essay in English studies (6 credits)
2. Language and Communication

Language and Communication (L&C), an interdisciplinary programme within the Faculty of Arts, centres on the study and use of language in society in a multilingual, globalized world, with a particular focus on languages of global import, such as English, as well as those with local significance, in how they are appropriated and positioned in multilingual, cosmopolitan contexts of Asia. The programme provides the theoretical foundations and applied contexts for understanding and addressing linguistic and social questions of language and communication. It equips students with the intellectual and practical tools to critically examine, intelligently reflect on, and competently participate in communicative situations, in real-world contexts, such as in the workplace as well as in more informal sites of multilingual communication. The L&C programme takes particular pride in engaging in experiential learning, from projects in courses involving fieldwork in Hong Kong, to initiatives such as overseas field trips and internships (see http://www.english.hku.hk/langcom/lcis.htm for details). In addressing the need in society for linguistically versatile and culturally sensitive leaders in the 21st-century knowledge economy of Asia’s world city and beyond, the programme aims at honing transferable skills for a wide range of careers, including education, materials development, editing and publishing, public administration, public relations, marketing, the media, event organization, tourism, cultural affairs and global creative industries.

Students are encouraged to discuss their study plans and course selections with the Language and Communication programme coordinator, any teacher in the programme, or their Academic Advisers.

Requirements and Syllabus

First-year Prerequisite

Students intending to major or minor in Language and Communication must pass at least one introductory LCOM course from List A (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 a C grade in the Use of English AS-level exam, or their equivalents.

Introductory Courses

Prospective majors are required to take 30 credits of introductory courses (including the prerequisite to be taken in the first year) normally taken in the first two years of study, which consist of:

a. 12 credits from List A (of which at least 6 credits must be from LCOM);
b. 6 credits from List B; and
c. 12 credits from List C.

Prospective minors are required to take 18 credits of introductory courses (including the prerequisite to be taken in the first year), with at least 6 credits from List A, List B and List C.
List A: Historical and Theoretical Foundations
The courses in this list will introduce students to the history and organization of diverse areas of 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)
ENGL1012. Language as social action (6 credits)
ENGL1015. Introduction to English linguistics (6 credits)
ENGL1017. Introduction to sociolinguistics (6 credits)
ENGL1018. Language and gender (6 credits)
ENGL1037. Persuasion (6 credits)

LCOM1002. Language, communication, society, field (6 credits)
LCOM1003. Theorizing communication (6 credits)
LCOM1004. 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)
ENGL1029. Drama: Comedy and renewal (6 credits)
ENGL1030. Dramatic changes: Versions of Renaissance literature (6 credits)
ENGL1031. English grammar(s) (6 credits)
ENGL1032. Victorian 'high' and 'low' fiction (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 matters (6 credits)
ENGL1043. An introduction to 20th-century English poetry (6 credits)

List C: Introductory Courses from other programmes

Comparative Literature
CLIT1008. Ways of reading: Film, literature, and culture (6 credits)

Global Creative Industries
GCIN1001. Introduction to global creative industries (6 credits)

Linguistics
LING1000. Introduction to language (6 credits)
LING1004. Language structure for language learning (6 credits)
LING2004.  Phonetics: Describing sounds (6 credits)
LING2009.  Languages of the world (6 credits)
LING2048.  Language and cognition (6 credits)
LING2050.  Grammatical description (6 credits)
LING2056.  Sociolinguistics (6 credits)

Translation
CHIN2333.  Culture and translation (6 credits)
CHIN2334.  Communication in written translation (6 credits)
CHIN2352.  Language contrast and translation I (6 credits)
CHIN2355.  Translation criticism E-C (6 credits)

Students should note that LING1000 is the pre-requisite for the five other introductory LING courses. However students who have completed any introductory course in List A may enroll in these LING courses without the pre-requisite LING course.

Advanced Courses

Students declaring a major have to take 48 credits of advanced courses, which consist of:

a. 24 credits from the ENGL and LCOM course lists below (of which at least 12 credits must be from LCOM), which must include a capstone course;
b. 24 credits from any other programmes from the list below.

Students declaring a minor have to take 18 credits of advanced courses from the list below (of which at least 6 credits must be from LCOM).

Students intending to enroll in any advanced courses in English Studies or Language and Communication must normally have completed 18 credits of introductory courses, with at least 6 credits from both List A and List B.

Students should note that they bear the responsibility of fulfilling the necessary pre-requisites, if any, for advanced courses in other programmes. Students who have completed any introductory course in List A may however enroll in some of the advanced LING courses in the list below without having to do the pre-requisite and/or introductory LING course(s), though it may still be preferable to do so.

American Studies
AMER2014.  A dream in the heart: varieties of Asian American culture (6 credits)
AMER2022.  What’s on TV? Television and American culture (6 credits)
AMER2033.  Asia on America’s screen (6 credits)
AMER2040.  Creating culture in the world: American creative industries in age of globalization (6 credits)
AMER2042.  Consuming culture: decoding American symbols (6 credits)
AMER2043.  Born in the USA: U.S. youth cultures (6 credits)

Comparative Literature
CLIT2025.  Visual cultures (6 credits)
CLIT2026.  Digital cultures (6 credits)
CLIT2064.  Hong Kong culture: Popular arts and everyday life (6 credits)
CLIT2083.  Film art, language and culture (6 credits)
English Studies
ENGL2002. Language in society (6 credits)
ENGL2004. English syntax (6 credits)
ENGL2007. Literary linguistics (6 credits)
ENGL2030. World Englishes (6 credits)
ENGL2031. The semantics and pragmatics of English (6 credits)
ENGL2039. Gender and discourse (6 credits)
ENGL2047. English discourse structures and strategies (6 credits)
ENGL2048. Language and jargon (6 credits)
ENGL2050. English corpus linguistics (6 credits)
ENGL2057. Text and image (6 credits)
ENGL2069. Form and meaning (6 credits)
ENGL2092. Postcolonial English (6 credits)
ENGL2099. Language, identity, and Asian Americans (6 credits)
ENGL2103. Language and new 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)
ENGL2123. Language and identity in Hong Kong (6 credits)
ENGL2125. English construction grammar (6 credits)
ENGL2126. Law, meaning, and interpretation (6 credits)
ENGL2127. Legal discourse and the mind (6 credits)
ENGL2129. English as a language of science (6 credits)
ENGL2130. Signs, language and meaning: Integrational reflections (6 credits)
ENGL2138. Language and globalization (6 credits)
ENGL2140. Ideologies of language in early modernity (6 credits)
ENGL2141. Doing discourse analysis (6 credits)

European Studies
EUST2010. European Identity (6 credits)

Global Creative Industries
GNIC2002. Commercializing creativity: A cultural critique (6 credits)
GNIC2006. Fashion and luxury: Cultural and organizational dynamics (6 credits)
GNIC2007. Film and media: Cultural and organizational dynamics (6 credits)
GNIC2008. Advertising: Cultural and organizational dynamics (6 credits)

Japanese Studies
JAPN2029. Japanese popular music and Hong Kong society (6 credits)
JAPN2031. The media and Japan (6 credits)
JAPN2045. Sex, gender, and technology in Japan and East Asia (6 credits)
JAPN2046. Critical inquiries into Japanese and East Asian modernities (6 credits)
JAPN2050. Creative industries in East Asia (Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea and Japan) (6 credits)
JAPN2051. Interpretation I (6 credits)
JAPN2057. Multi-cultural advertising (6 credits)
JAPN2058. Understanding popular culture in Japan and Greater China (Hong Kong, Taiwan, and mainland China) (6 credits)
JAPN2067. Japanese pragmatics: Understanding the hidden meaning (6 credits)
JAPN3021. Communication and society (6 credits)
JAPN3022. Introduction to teaching Japanese as a foreign language (6 credits)
JAPN3028. Contrastive linguistics: Discourse analysis of Japanese and Cantonese (6 credits)
Language and Communication
LCOM2001. Theories of language and communication (6 credits)
LCOM2002. Language in the workplace (6 credits)
LCOM2003. Language and politeness (6 credits)
LCOM2004. Language, communication and the media (6 credits)
LCOM2005. Language, communication and globalisation: Politics, peril, pop (6 credits)
LCOM2007. Visual communication (6 credits)
LCOM2008. Health communication, ‘healthy’ communication (6 credits)

Linguistics
LING2003. Semantics: Meaning and grammar (6 credits)
LING2011. Language and literacy in the information age (6 credits)
LING2013. Language typology: The study of linguistic diversity (6 credits)
LING2022. Pragmatics (6 credits)
LING2023. Discourse analysis (6 credits)
LING2034. Psycholinguistics (6 credits)
LING2036. Child language (6 credits)
LING2037. Bilingualism (6 credits)
LING2040. Languages in contact (6 credits)
LING2057. Language evolution (6 credits)
LING2058. Topics in Cantonese linguistics (6 credits)
LING2060. Languages of China (6 credits)
LING2061. Linguistic fieldwork (6 credits)
LING2062. Linguistic research methods (6 credits)

Philosophy
PHIL2075. The semantics/pragmatics distinction (6 credits)
PHIL2230. Philosophy and cognitive science (6 credits)
PHIL2410. Mind and language in Chinese thought (6 credits)

Translation
CHIN2331. Choice of words in translation (6 credits)
CHIN2332. Translation in Hong Kong society (6 credits)
CHIN2339. Translation for administration and business (6 credits)
CHIN2340. Film translation workshop (6 credits)
CHIN2341. Translating writings on art (6 credits)
CHIN2342. Interpretation workshop II (6 credits)
CHIN2343. Legal interpreting (6 credits)
CHIN2344. Short stories: East and West (6 credits)
CHIN2345. Syntax-based translation (6 credits)
CHIN2346. From page to stage: A workshop on drama adaptation and translation (6 credits)
CHIN2356 Language contrast and translation II (6 credits)
CHIN3311 Translation and Sinology (6 credits)

Capstone Courses
ENGL3036. Research seminar in English linguistics (6 credits)
ENGL3037. Research seminar in language and society (6 credits)
LCOM3001. Cultural dimensions of language and communication (6 credits)
LCOM3003. LCOM Papers: Writing for, editing, and producing an academic e-journal (12 credits)
LCOM3004. Language and communication field trip (6 credits)
LCOM3005. Internship in language and communication (6 credits)
LCOM3006. Extended essay in language and communication (6 credits)
3. Academic advising in the School of English

Apart from this programme handbook, you should visit the School webpage (http://www.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 (http://arts.hku.hk/BAprogramme/) 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 a teacher or the administrative staff at the School Office. The Programme Co-ordinators 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. If you have questions about compliance with regulations, application for credit transfer and online course enrollment, 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.
4. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Course Selection and Credit Transfer

1. Can I take an introductory ENGL/LCOM course if I got a grade D in the Use of English AS-level exam or Level 4 in English Language HKDSE exam?

Normally, a minimum C grade in the Use of English AS-level exam or Level 5 in English Language HKDSE exam is required for admission to any of the introductory course(s). You can apply for special consideration if you have other equivalent qualification(s) such as IELTS, TOEFL, GCSE, etc.

2. I’m a non-JUPAS applicant and didn’t sit for the AS-level or 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 after you have made the course selection online.

3. Can I take all the required advanced courses in English literary studies to fulfill 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 programme coordinators or any teacher in the School regarding your study plan in the major.

4. How can I enroll in an extended essay course?

Extended essay courses are primarily offered to outstanding third year students enrolled in the Undergraduate Research Fellowship Programme (URFP) to pursue an advanced research project under the guidance and instruction of a supervisor. The extended essay course can only be taken in conjunction with another advanced ENGL/LCOM course and students will be required to attend the classes for that course, as part of a 12-credit combination. Before making the course selection online, students enrolled in the URFP have to seek approval from a prospective supervisor, who will normally be the teacher of the conjoined course, to consider their intended admission to the course.

5. What shall I do if I am unable to enroll in courses online via the University Student Information System?

Please consult the School Office immediately whenever you encounter difficulties in making course selections. It is possible that you don’t meet a prerequisite to enroll in a particular course, which may require special consideration of your circumstances. Or it may be that there is a time clash with another course you have selected, which should be resolved by adjusting your course selection.
6. Can I transfer the credits gained from exchange studies to the major in English Studies or Language and Communication?

Yes, if the courses which you have taken on exchange are comparable to the introductory or advanced courses listed in the relevant syllabuses. Under the new 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.

7. What are the application procedures for credit transfer from exchange studies?

Formal application for credit transfer has to be submitted via the Arts Faculty Office. However, you have to seek preliminary approval from the School Office before your departure, by submitting the relevant information on course(s) you wish to take at the host institution, such as the syllabus, total number of contact hours (for both lectures and tutorials), coursework requirement, breakdown of assessment, credit weighting, etc. so that we can assess the comparability. The finalized course enrollment has to be confirmed during exchange.

Declaration of Majors/Minors

1. What are the main characteristics of the majors offered by the School of English under the new curriculum?

Under the new 4-year curriculum, our majors 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 3 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 year(s). A capstone experience focuses on the integration and application of knowledge, which may take the form of an advanced or research seminar, internship, overseas fieldtrip, etc.

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

Under the 4-year curriculum, you have to successfully complete one introductory ENGL or LCOM 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).

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

You have to take at least one introductory course from List A in the first year (as a prerequisite) in order to declare a major. 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 enroll in any advanced courses offered by the School of English.
4. Is it possible to double-major or to take a major and a minor in the School of English?

Yes, we offer 2 majors and 2 minors (English Studies, Language and Communication) at undergraduate level, which you can combine according to your interest. Declaring either a double major or a major with a minor in two of our programmes will allow you to gain a deeper knowledge in different areas of English literature and linguistics and to strengthen your academic record, especially if you are interested in pursuing postgraduate studies in English.

**Plagiarism and Undergraduate Research**

1. What is plagiarism and what happens if I am found to have committed plagiarism?

The University defines plagiarism “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. Plagiarism is a very serious offence and students found plagiarizing may be failed not only in the plagiarized oral or written assignment but in the course. Their case will also be considered by a School panel which 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.

2. How can I join the Undergraduate Research Fellowship Programme (URFP)?

The Faculty of Arts will invite academically outstanding second-year students to join the URFP which offers them an opportunity to undertake research under the guidance and supervision of academic staff who have a strong research record and experience in training research postgraduate students. Students enrolled in the URFP are required to complete 12 credits in research-focused courses in the major (such as an extended essay course in conjunction with an advanced ENGL/LCOM course), admission to which is considered at the School level. The fellowship will be recorded in the transcripts of students who have successfully completed the URFP in the third and fourth year.

3. 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 http://www.english.hku.hk/departmental_ethics_review.doc and needs to be submitted to the Research Supervisor for endorsement.
5. Useful Contacts

Programme Co-ordinators:

Dr. Otto Heim (English Studies):                 oheim@hku.hk
Dr. Lisa Lim (Language and Communication):      lisalim@hku.hk

School Office:

Ms. Kitty Mak (School Manager):                 kittymak@hku.hk
Mr. Tamix Wong (Executive Assistant):           tamix@hku.hk

General Enquiries:  (852) 3917 2755
Fax:                                               (852) 2559 7139
Location:                                         Room 735, Run Run Shaw Tower, Centennial Campus,
                                                   The University of Hong Kong
Webpage:                                          www.english.hku.hk
6. Important Dates for 2014-15

☞ Course Selection Period ☞
(course selection for the entire academic year)

Second and Third Year Students:
Online course selection system opens for preview
Course selection for second and third year students
Suspension period:

First Year Students:
Online course selection system opens for preview
Course selection
Suspension period:

☞ First Semester ☞
First day of teaching
Add/drop period to amend course enrollments
Suspension period:
Reading/Field trip week
Last day of teaching
Revision Period
Assessment Period

☞ Second Semester ☞
First day of teaching
Add/drop period to amend course enrollments
Suspension period:
Class suspension for the Lunar New Year
Reading/Field trip week
Last day of teaching
Revision Period
Assessment Period

☞ Optional Summer Semester ☞
Teaching and assessment