

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**

**Bachelor of Arts Programme in European Studies**

**CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT**

The European Studies Programme is an interdisciplinary programme in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures which students can choose as a major or a minor. With the exception of the course 'European Studies Dissertation' (which is an optional 12-credit module), all European Studies courses carry 6 credits. A range of 120-180 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) is the norm for a 6-credit course. Students must complete 240-360 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) for a 12-credit course.

Contact hours are in a range of 24-36 hours for a 6-credit course, except for (a) Research courses in which students do independent research work under the guidance of a supervisor and the contact time with the supervisor is 12-24 hours, and (b) Field Trip in which students study at summer schools in Europe and conduct independent research and preparatory activities and the contact time with the teacher in charge is 6-12 hours. As a general guide, regardless of the teaching method used, the total output should be not more than 5,000 words for a 6-credit course; and not more than 10,000 words for a 12-credit course. Assessment for most courses is 100 % coursework, though a few courses are assessed by 50% coursework and 50% examination.

*1. Introductory courses (6 credits)*

These courses allow students to acquire basic knowledge of Europe's cultural, civilizational, historical, political, and economic foundations. These courses are taught in a lecture/small group (tutorial) format to allow students to develop systematic analytical, research, communication, and critical inquiry skills. The learning objective is for students to demonstrate the ability to understand the interlinkage of political, economic, and social developments in contemporary Europe; understand and apply key concepts relating to social and political phenomena; and to make sense of key texts and effectively communicate their content for purposes of discussion and analysis. Writing and reading workshops are part of these courses. Assessment is 50% coursework and 50% examination. Coursework includes one essay of not more than 2,000 words; and 5 weekly assignments of not more than 300 words each.

*2. Seminar courses (6 credits)*

These courses focus on key subject matter relating to social, cultural, political, and economic developments in Europe. They are taught in a seminar format which facilitates reading exercises, discussion, and critical analysis. Assessment items and tasks include essays (of diverging word length), presentations, small-group work exercises, writing assignments on the weekly readings, in-class performance, and an in-class test. The courses are assessed by 100% coursework. Assessment is by one essay of not more than 5,000 words, one group presentation, and reading assignments.

### 3. *Field Trip course* (6 credits)

Field trip course allows students not only to experience Europe first-hand but also to develop their expertise and language skills. The field trip encompasses attendance at a summer school, an independent research element on a topic previously approved by a member of staff of the European Studies Programme, cultural activities, and preparatory and review activities which include a final research presentation. Students are required to keep a log of their activities in Europe. During the trip teachers accompany students to the Summer School and provide preparatory, debriefing individual research project meetings. Coursework includes one essay of not more than 5,000 words and one group presentation.

### 4. *Research courses: Capstone* (6 credits; 12 credits)

The 'European Studies Research Project' is a capstone experience for students allowing them to develop research and analytical skills. It entails in-depth research by the student on a pertinent topic relating to European affairs which is previously approved and supervised by a member of staff of the European Studies Programme. In Research courses the student decides on a topic in consultation with his or her supervisor. Students engage in regular one-on-one discussions with their supervisor and they are to report back on their readings and research before writing. The research paper (not more than 6,000 words) comprises research findings as well as an extensive bibliography. The 'European Studies Dissertation' is a capstone experience similar to that of the 'European Studies Research Project'. It entails extensive, in-depth, and conceptual-theoretically informed research by the student on a pertinent topic relating to European affairs which is previously approved and supervised by a member of staff of the European Studies Programme. Given that the length, scope, format, and expectations of the research are higher than of the independent research project, the dissertation (not more than 10,000 words) carries 12 credits. This includes an induction workshop, regular supervision, emails and feedback on draft materials.