

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
Bachelor of Arts Programme in Spanish

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The Spanish language and culture programme offered as a major or a minor by the School of Modern Languages and Cultures comprises seven different types of courses which are taught using distinctive learning modes. All courses are 6-credit courses. 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. Contact hours are in a range of 24-72 hours for a 6-credit course. All courses are assessed by 100% continuous assessment. As a general guide, regardless of the teaching method used, the total output should be not more than 4,000 words in Spanish for a 6-credit course. The categories of Spanish courses are as follows:

1. *Introductory language courses* (6 credits)

These first or second-year courses emphasize the learning of the Spanish language. Students acquire a basic knowledge in the four areas of competence (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) with a particular emphasis on communicative skills. Classes are conducted in small groups in order to ensure a high degree of interactivity between students and teachers. Conversation groups and laboratory groups are usually also arranged separately on a regular basis. Contact hours are approximately 72. Assessment is based upon 100% coursework, which includes in-class tests, regular assignments, and online reading and listening, with a total written output of not more than 2,000 words in Spanish. It must be emphasized that assessable output is not only in written form, but also includes a student's performance in terms of spoken, listening, and reading proficiency in the Spanish language.

2. *Advanced language courses* (6 credits)

These advanced language courses build on the introductory language courses, thus they emphasize the learning of the Spanish language at an intermediate and advanced level, grammatically as well as in culture-specific issues which are gradually introduced into the curriculum. Students develop further their proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in the Spanish language. As in the introductory language courses, classes are conducted in small groups in order to ensure a high degree of interactivity between students and teachers. Conversation groups are also arranged separately on a regular basis. The number of contact hours is approximately 60. Assessment is based upon 100% coursework, including regular assignments, essays, small research projects, portfolios, and/or short oral presentations, with a total written output of not more than 4,000 words in Spanish. It must be emphasized that assessable output is not only in written form, but also includes a student's performance in terms of spoken, listening, and reading proficiency in the Spanish language.

3. *Survey courses* (6 credits)

These courses focus on the exploration of specific topics, such as society, literature, media, films, history, politics, linguistics, history of the language, etc. They are taught predominantly in Spanish by means of lectures and tutorials/seminars or by lectures only. Contact hours vary from a minimum of 24 to a maximum of 36 hours. Guest speakers are occasionally invited to give presentations on particular topics. Assessment methods are appropriate to the stated learning outcomes of the courses and normally include in-class tests, oral presentations, as well as the writing of essays, reports, and projects totalling not more than 4,000 words in Spanish.

4. *Translation courses* (6 credits)

These courses focus on problems arising from transferring concepts and ideas from the Spanish language into English and vice versa while reinforcing students' language and culture skills in the Spanish language. The total number of contact hours is 24. Courses are taught in seminar format and include class debates and problem-solving discussions. Assessment is 100% coursework, predominantly translation exercises totalling not more than 4,000 words in Spanish and/or English.

5. *Study Abroad courses* (6 credits)

These courses are usually offered during the summer between the second and third years or the third and fourth years, and they are organized by several universities and teaching institutions from one of the countries where the Spanish language is spoken. These courses are designed to build on and to reinforce the language competence acquired during the first two or three years of study of the Spanish language. These courses comprise a minimum of 60 contact hours in a linguistic immersion context and they prepare students for more advanced work upon their return to Hong Kong. The percentage of assessment by coursework and/or by final examination will vary depending on the host institution.

6. *Workshop courses* (6 credits)

These courses aim at enriching the students' Spanish language and culture knowledge through individual and group work and through the application of practical skills. These courses include business courses, essay writing courses and a capstone course on autonomy in Spanish language learning. Assessment for the business and essay writing courses is based upon 100% coursework, which can include in-class tests, regular assignments, online reading and listening, essays, reading assignments and oral presentations with a written output of not more than 4,000 words in Spanish. Business courses feature occasional guest speakers from the international business community in Hong Kong. The capstone course aims at developing autonomy in Spanish language learning and the final assessment is done on the basis of a portfolio of autonomous work carried out during the semester which will include a selection of activities undertaken by students.

7. *Internship* (6 credits)

The objective of this course is to offer students an internship learning experience, along with the opportunity to earn credits towards their degree, while working in an organisation outside the campus. The internship experience draws on the Spanish Programme coursework to encourage students to apply their classroom knowledge to work in organisations that demonstrate the use of Spanish in the community. The duration of the internship depends on the arrangement made between the student and the organisation, with the approval of the course supervisor but should involve approx. 120 contact hours of committed service for the host organisation. Internships can be conducted during the semester (e.g. 8 hours/ week) or at full-time equivalent during the non-teaching period. Students will be assessed by the organisation contact throughout the duration of the internship and will also, if possible, receive a letter of reference from the organisation at the end of the internship. A written report (800-1,000 words in Spanish) with a description, critical assessment of and reflection on the internship experience, will be assessed by the course supervisor at HKU. Students are asked to make their own internship arrangements with an organisation of their choice in liaison with a relevant teacher in the Spanish Programme of HKU.

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