

Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Programs in Humanities

Curriculum for Master of Philosophy (MPhil) Program in Humanities

Master of Philosophy (MPhil) program aims to provide training for students who intend to pursue professional career in teaching and research. It can be an end in itself or serve as preparation for the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

Students enrolled in the program may specialize in Linguistics, Literature, History and Anthropology, or Philosophy and Religion, but are expected to go beyond conventional disciplinary boundaries and cultivate knowledge and expertise in interdisciplinary dialogue and interaction.

Program Requirements

1. Completion of a minimum of 12 credits of coursework;
2. HUMA 6990 MPhil Thesis Research; and
3. Presentation and oral defense of the MPhil thesis.

Students are also encouraged to take a non-credit bearing third language course, normally Japanese, French or German, for one year.

Credits

Students are required to take a minimum of 12 credits of PG courses offered by the Division (excluding HUMA 6100 Independent Study) preferably in their first year of study. The second year is normally devoted to the writing of the MPhil thesis. If students wish to further broaden their interests and training in a special area, they may choose to take more coursework and/or enroll in an independent study course in addition to the regular 12-credit requirement.

Of the 12 credits, 3 credits must be taken in one of the following core courses in the area of concentration and 3 credits must be taken in another discipline.

a) Linguistics:

- i) HUMA 5160 Chinese Historical Phonology
- ii) HUMA 5240 Chinese Dialectology
- iii) HUMA 5270 Cantonese Linguistics

b) Literature:

- i) HUMA 5300 Chinese Literary History
- ii) HUMA 5330 Traditional Chinese Literary Theory and Criticism
- iii) HUMA 5380 Modern Literary Theory I; or
HUMA 5390 Modern Literary Theory II

c) History and Anthropology:

- i) HUMA 5550 Field Research: Theory and Practice
- ii) HUMA 5560 Methods in the Study of Source Materials
- iii) HUMA 5580 Theories and Methods in East Asian History

d) Philosophy and Religion:

- i) HUMA 5800 Fundamentals of Chinese Philosophy
- ii) HUMA 5900 Fundamentals of Comparative Philosophy

The MPhil Thesis

The thesis is normally written in English. If a student wishes to use Chinese as the thesis language, prior approval must be obtained. Petition to write the thesis in Chinese must be made by the student before the end of the first year of study. For details, please refer to the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.

The thesis must be based on original research; it should demonstrate an awareness of the conceptual and methodological problems related to the chosen topic and a solid command of bibliographical materials in the field of study. The format of the thesis should conform to the general university guidelines outlined in the Handbook for Research Postgraduate Studies and also to the requirements listed in the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.

MPhil Thesis Examination

A student submitting a thesis will need to defend it before the Thesis Examination Committee. The thesis defense normally takes place in the second regular term of the student's second year of studies. For details of thesis examinations, please refer to the *Handbook for Research Postgraduate Studies* and also to the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.

Curriculum for Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Program in Humanities

The PhD degree program is interdisciplinary in nature. It aims to provide training for students who intend to pursue professional career in teaching and research.

Students enrolled in the program may specialize in Linguistics, Literature, History and Anthropology, or Philosophy and Religion, but are expected to go beyond conventional disciplinary boundaries and cultivate knowledge and expertise in interdisciplinary dialogue and interaction.

Program Requirements

1. Completion of a minimum of 24 credits of coursework;
2. Fulfilling language requirements;
3. Passing qualifying examination;
4. HUMA 7990 Doctoral Thesis Research; and
5. Presentation and oral defense of the PhD thesis.

Credits

Students are required to fulfill a minimum of 24 credits of PG courses offered by the Division, excluding HUMA 6100 Independent Study. Subject to the approval of the Division's PG Committee, students may be granted credit transfer of up to 9 credits on case-by-case basis.

Linguistics Concentration

Students will focus their research on Chinese linguistics, including phonology, dialectology, morphology, historical grammar, or Sino-Tibetan linguistics from a historical perspective.

- i) Of the 24 credits of required coursework, 9 must be from:
 - HUMA 5160 Chinese Historical Phonology
 - HUMA 5240 Chinese Dialectology
 - HUMA 5270 Cantonese Linguistics
- ii) 3 credits must be taken in a discipline other than Linguistics, and
- iii) The remaining 12 credits can be taken in the student's chosen field, to be decided in consultation with the thesis supervisor.

Literature Concentration

Students will focus primarily on Chinese literature from comparative, interdisciplinary, and theoretical perspectives.

- i) Of the 24 credits of required coursework, 9 must be from:
 - HUMA 5300 Chinese Literary History
 - HUMA 5330 Traditional Chinese Literary Theory and Criticism
 - HUMA 5380 Modern Literary Theory I; or
HUMA 5390 Modern Literary Theory II
- ii) 3 credits must be taken in a discipline other than Literature; and
- iii) The remaining 12 credits can be taken in the student's chosen field, to be decided in consultation with the thesis supervisor.

History and Anthropology Concentration

Students will have the option of choosing one of the following two plans: Plan A - Chinese History; or Plan B - Cultural Anthropology and Social History.

Plan A - Chinese History

This plan focuses on the history of China with emphasis on the period from the Ming Dynasty to the founding of the People's Republic. Approaches to the subject can be economic, social, political, cultural, intellectual, or comparative.

Plan B - Cultural Anthropology and Social History

This plan focuses primarily on South China. Research areas include not only Guangdong and Fujian, but also the regions extending from Taiwan through Hong Kong and Macau to Hainan. Other possible subjects of study are overseas Chinese (in Southeast Asia, Japan, North America, and Europe) and the ethnic groups of southern and southwestern China (She, Yao, Dan, etc.).

- i) Of the 24 credits of required coursework, 9 must be from:
 - HUMA 5550 Field Research: Theory and Practice
 - HUMA 5560 Methods in the Study of Source Materials
 - HUMA 5580 Theories and Methods in East Asian History

- ii) 3 credits must be taken in a discipline other than History and Anthropology; and
- iii) The remaining 12 credits can be taken in the student's chosen field, to be decided in consultation with the thesis supervisor.

Philosophy and Religion Concentration

Students will focus their research on at least one of the following areas: Chinese, Asian, Western, and comparative philosophy and/or religion.

- i) Of the 24 credits of required coursework, 3 must be from:
 - HUMA 5800 Fundamentals of Chinese Philosophy
 - HUMA 5900 Fundamentals of Comparative Philosophy
- ii) 3 credits must be taken in a discipline other than Philosophy and Religion; and
- iii) The remaining 18 credits can be taken in the student's chosen field, to be decided in consultation with the thesis supervisor.

Independent Study

PhD students are required to take 24 credits of PG courses offered by the Division. If students wish to further broaden their interests and training in a specific area, they may choose to take more coursework and/or enroll in an independent study course in addition to the regular 24-credit requirement. Under special circumstances, students may apply for substituting a regular course by an independent study course. The application requires the endorsement of the student's thesis supervisor and the approval of the PG Committee. However, no more than two independent study courses may be used for this purpose.

Language Requirements

The study of a foreign language may be an important part of a student's preparation for research and teaching. A third language (normally Japanese, French or German) requirement, other than English and Chinese, is optional, but according to specific needs of the thesis research; the supervisor has the authority to require a student to take one and decide what level of proficiency should be achieved before graduation. The level of competence in a third language can be demonstrated either through satisfactory completion of a second-year language course taken within the last five years or through acceptable performance in a standardized examination. The third language, if required, must be fulfilled no later than the term in which the student completes the qualifying examination.

PhD Qualifying Examination

To become a doctoral candidate, a student must pass a written qualifying examination. The qualifying examination should be completed no later than the sixth regular term of study for full-time students, or the eighth regular term for part-time students. For details of the qualifying examinations, please refer to the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.

The PhD Thesis

A PhD thesis prospectus should be submitted to the Thesis Supervision Committee no later than six months for full-time students or nine months for part-time students after successful completion of the qualifying examination.

The thesis is normally written in English. If a student wishes to use Chinese as the thesis language, prior approval must be obtained. Petition to write the thesis in Chinese must be made by the student before the end of the second year of studies. For details, please refer to the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.

A PhD thesis is a scholarly study on a subject based on original research. It must demonstrate an awareness of the conceptual and methodological problems related to the chosen topic and a solid command of bibliographical materials in the field of studies. The format of the thesis should conform to the general university guidelines and also to the requirements listed in the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.

PhD Thesis Examination

A student submitting a thesis will need to defend it before the Thesis Examination Committee. For details of thesis examinations, please refer to the *Handbook for Research Postgraduate Studies* and also the Division's *Postgraduate Handbook*.