

HONG KONG SHUE YAN UNIVERSITY

Department of History

September 2024

YEAR 1 - Language Requirement		
Code	Course	Credits
CHI101-2	First year Chinese I & II	8
ENG111-2	English Usage I & II	6

YEAR 1 - Departmental Requirements			
Code	Course	Course description	Credits
HIST110	Introduction to Ancient Chinese History	This course mainly describes the basic knowledge of ancient Chinese politics, economy, society, academics, culture, military affairs and religion, and introduces students to understanding the importance of the above topics to the development of Chinese history, as well as the circumstances and reasons for the changes in the past dynasties. The course aims to help students understand why the above topics have been passed down through generations and examine the value of Chinese traditions in modern society.	3
HIST 120	The Ancient World	This course outlines the development of the divergent paths of major civilizations of the world from ancient times to circa 1500. Under the chronological framework of world history, this course examines the distinctive characteristics of individual societies among the major cultural regions such as Southwest Asia, Africa, South Asia, Mediterranean, and East Asia. The overall objective is to provide students with historical insights to assess the shaping of and interactions in the ancient world.	3
HIST130	Introduction to Historical Theories and Methods	This course is an introduction course for first-year students to understand the basic knowledge, research skills and methods of history, including history theories of traditional Chinese and western historians and different history methods such as oral history,	3

		<p>psychohistory, and new cultural history. This course also focuses on mastering practical knowledge of history, including quotation/citation of resources and bibliography of texts. Through introducing history articles, styles of presentation and other practical details, practice and understanding of history will be enhanced. Practical training will be an important part to this course.</p>	
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YEAR 1 - Departmental Electives

Code	Course	Course description	Credits
HIST196	Knowing Hong Kong History through Heritages, Literature and Films	Through tracing the history of Hong Kong reflected by cultural heritage, literature, and films up to the reunification, this course aims to develop a solid understanding among students of the effects of historical changes and colonial culture on Hong Kong's society. Besides discussion on historical development in colonial Hong Kong, this course also investigates the social transformations and historical changes in Hong Kong's society as reflected in the aspects of culture and artworks, and the effects of the unique political and cultural context in which the colonial government was situated on the development of Hong Kong and China. Throughout the course of study, students will see the process of the establishment of cultural environments in Hong Kong and their relation to the development of contemporary Hong Kong.	3
HIST198	A Brief History of the United States	This is a survey of the American past from its outset to the 21st century, starting from the colonial period. It studies the American path towards independence, the westward movement, the civil war and imperialism, the impact of industrialization and the growth and the outcomes of urbanization in the Progressive Era, the decline of American liberalism and the reform movements with a particular emphasis on the New Deal, the Civil Rights movements, and the Great Society. It also traces America's involvement in the two world wars and two wars in Asia as well as its lasting internal issues. It aims to help students acquire a good knowledge of the major themes and characteristics of the U.S. and its people in the past, as well as a better understanding of the nation at present with a perspective derived from studying its past.	3
Credits Required for Departmental Electives			3

YEAR 1 - General Education Courses	
Course	Credits
General Education Courses	6

YEAR 1 - Non-Departmental Electives	
Course	Credits
Non-Departmental Electives	3
TOTAL CREDITS	35

YEAR 2 - Language Requirement		
Code	Course	Credits
ENG211-2	English Writing I & II	6

YEAR 2 - Departmental Requirements			
Code	Course	Course description	Credits
HIST200	Understanding of Urban History	As a field of history, urban history examines the historical features of cities and the process of urbanization. Its research approach is often multidisciplinary, crossing boundaries into sociology, anthropology, cultural studies, economics, and geography. It is pivotal for explaining the continued growth of towns and cities globally and is particularly useful for identifying the various problems and solutions faced by fast-growing megacities in the developing world. As an introductory course of urban history, with a special reference to the Western academic literature, the content of the course will consist of three components: basic knowledge of the field, a brief history of cities, and an introduction to various perspectives and research methods of urban studies, which aims at providing students with a solid foundation for researching urban history.	3
HIST213	Ancient Chinese History (I)	This course examines the histories of the Qin, Han, Wei-Jin, Sui, Tang, and Five Dynasties in premodern China. It focuses on the rise and fall of each dynasty while offering a broad overview of their social, economic, and cultural dynamics. Students will be introduced to the position and significance of different dynasties in the general history of China. This will help students develop a thorough understanding of the history of imperial China.	3

HIST214	Ancient Chinese History (II)	This course examines the histories of the Song, Liao, Jin, and Yuan, Ming, and Qing Dynasties in premodern China. It focuses on the rise and fall of each dynasty while offering a broad overview of their social, economic, and cultural dynamics. Students will be introduced to the position and significance of different dynasties in the general history of China. This will help students develop a thorough understanding of the history of imperial China.	3
HIST220	The Modern World	This course outlines the major changes in Europe and the western world that came to dominate and largely shaped the modern world from global processes of the period 1500 to 1900. Particular discussion is placed on the key European powers such as Portugal, Spain, France, Prussia, Austria, Russia, and Great Britain. This course further examines the varied regional responses in the non-western world to the development of European expansion and dominance. The overall objective is to provide students with historical insights to assess the making of the modern world, particularly in forming political, economic, military, and other world systems.	3
HIST298	Modern History of Hong Kong	<p>This course mainly teaches the history of Hong Kong, from the opening of Hong Kong in 1841 to the signing of the Joint Declaration between China and the United Kingdom in 1984. The content revolves around three major themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The changes in British policy governing Hong Kong 2. The evolution of Chinese society 3. China-Hong Kong relations <p>By using innovative teaching activities such as lectures, literature reading, discussions, and field trips, supplemented by the use of multimedia to assist in teaching, the course aims to enable students to grasp the main context of the historical development of Hong Kong during the colonial period and critically examine Hong Kong's status as an international metropolis. In addition, the course hopes to provide specific basic knowledge for students interested in Hong Kong studies for their further study.</p>	3

YEAR 2 - Departmental Electives			
Code	Course	Course description	Credits
HIST211	History of Sui Tang and the Five Dynasties	This course is divided into two parts: “Introduction” and “Monograph”. The “Introduction” section describes historical materials and archaeological discoveries related to the study of the Sui, Tang and Five Dynasties, thus briefly explaining the status of the Sui, Tang and Five Dynasties in the overall Chinese history. The “Monograph” part discusses the important historical figures, political events, ruling policies, important institutions, economic activities and social culture of the Sui, Tang and Five Dynasties, and introduces the main research outcomes of the academia in the above areas.	3
HIST212	History of Qin-Han-Wei-Jin Dynasties	This course is divided into two parts: “Introduction” and “Monograph”. The “Introduction” part describes the historical material and archaeological discoveries of the history of the Qin Han, Wei Jin Southern and Northern Dynasties, and thus briefly explains the status of the Qin Han, Wei Jin Southern and Northern Dynasties in the overall Chinese history. The “Monograph” part discusses the important historical figures, political events, ruling policies, important institutions, economic activities, and social culture of the Qin Han, Wei Jin Southern and Northern Dynasties, etc., and introduces the main research outcomes of the academia in the above areas.	3
HIST230	Study of Chinese Historical Sources and Materials	This course is divided into two parts: “Introduction” and “Monograph”. The “Introduction” section describes: 1) the nature and classification of traditional historical materials, and 2) the overview of the main historical materials newly discovered since the twentieth century. The “Monograph” section details: 1) The content gain and loss and spread of traditional historical materials from the pre-Qin period to the Qing Dynasty. 2) The discovery process of four types of new historical materials, including “Oracle Bone”, “Qin and Han Bamboo Strips”, “The Testament of Dunhuang” and “The Archives of Ming and Qing Dynasties in the Imperial Palace”, and their value. It also introduces the main research results of the academic community in the above areas.	3

HIST250	History of the British Empire	<p>In the 19th and 20th centuries, the British Empire reached its zenith as it became the dominant global power. Its population was over 458 million in 1938 (20% of the world population). The British Empire became a world power because of its colonies all over the world. This course is an introductory course on the history of the British Empire from its origins to 1997, with a particular emphasis on the British raj experience in India, the most important colony of the Empire in the 19th and 20th centuries and aims at enabling the students to evaluate the concept of “Empire” and “imperialism” in the context of the global perspective. The content of this course is mainly divided into three parts: The first part explains the development of the British Empire with reference to the colonization of Australia, the Indian Subcontinent, the Malay Peninsula and Africa; the second part discusses life within the Empire, including economic relations and political life within the Empire, the new groups arising from the population flow within the Empire, the city and art of the empire, and British culture and thought; the third part discusses the legacy of the British Empire in the post-colonial world order.</p>	3
HIST252	Globalization and China	<p>This course explores the impact of globalization on China and China’s responses in the context of globalization in the twenty-first century. The course is divided into two parts. The first part introduces fundamental theories and knowledge about globalization. The second part focuses on the issues in relation to China and globalization. In addition to reviewing some key developments in China’s participation in globalization, it will also discuss various aspects of China in the course of globalization, such as politics, economy, resources and environment. The course is intended to arouse students’ interest in issues of contemporary China and the globe.</p>	3
HIST256	History of Modern East Asia	<p>East Asia has a long history and culture, with agriculture as the main economic foundation in the past, forming various political and social structures governed by patriarchy. With the coming of the West, Westerners established colonies and different spheres of influence in East Asia, which significantly changed East Asia’s political landscape and also stimulated the birth of modern nationalism. Facing unprecedented challenges from the West, East Asian countries had to implement reforms to survive. The content of the course</p>	3

		consists of three key components: the Western penetration, the rise of nationalism, and the modernity of East Asian countries, which are the most critical themes in the history of modern East Asia, with a particular reference to Japan and Korea. It aims to help students understand and evaluate these historical experiences that helped shape contemporary East Asia.	
HIST268	Art History of China	This course is an introduction to the history of Chinese art. It discusses the important historical and cultural topics in the history of Chinese art through thirteen specific time and space scenarios to explain the historical significance of the works of art. The teaching content covers the development of art from pre-Qin to modern times, including unearthed sites, archaeological relics, surviving paintings and calligraphy, or religious works, etc. It trains students' ability to master history and culture from visual and tangible heritage aspects through the study of art history, which in turn guides students to have a deeper perception and understanding of the spirit of Chinese art.	3
Credits Required for Departmental Electives			6

YEAR 2 - General Education Courses	
Course	Credits
General Education Courses	6

YEAR 2 - Non-Departmental Electives	
Course	Credits
Non-Departmental Electives	3
TOTAL CREDITS	36

YEAR 3 - Departmental Requirements			
Code	Course	Course description	Credits
HIST312	Modern China (1840-1949)	This course focuses on the great transformations, such as the collapse of the Qing dynasty and the rise and fall of the Republic of China, in modern China that lasted for over a century. The course analyzes the major political, military, diplomatic, and economic events occurring during this period and their causes and consequences to guide the students to objectively examine the painful process in China of salvation and survival when the nation faced unprecedented changes in the past three millennia because of the aggressions of the Great Powers. It explores the causes and processes that led to the disintegration of the two-millennia-long imperial system, the aberration of the democratic and republican systems, and the rise of party-state politics during this period to gain insights into modern Chinese history.	3
HIST318	Chinese Urban History	Scholars, such as Lewis Mumford, have pointed out that the development of cities reflects the progress of human beings from primitive life to civilization. This course analyzes the origins of Chinese cities and their evolution from agricultural to industrial societies to delve deeply into the study of the changes in social patterns and people's lifestyles and the historical processes they reflected. The development of cities in China was different from that of the West in that political factors have always played an important role to a certain extent. With the aggressions of the West, the cities in the coastal areas underwent profound changes, further revolutionizing the urban society in China. This course examines the development, characteristics, and role of cities in modern China, with an emphasis on the dynamics of urbanization and the changing relationship between urban and rural areas.	3

HIST320	The Contemporary World	In line with a concise overview of the historical development of the contemporary world, this course examines critical historical contexts from 1900 and factors shaping the crucial conflicts of dominant world powers. Particular emphasis is placed on the transition from European to American global dominance and the emergence of disputes on the world scene. This course provides historical insights into current issues with particular reference to their historical roots and global implications.	3
HIST350	A Global History of Cities	This course is an introduction to the general history of cities in the world from their origin to the present. It employs an interdisciplinary approach, to explore how cities have been shaped and in what ways urban dynamics have transformed human society, with a comparison of ancient and modern cities. The idea is to examine the history of the city as a benchmark to measure the extent, pace and characteristics of the economic, social, political, cultural, and morphological changes that occurred and interrelated with each other within the urban domain.	3
HIST390	History of the People's Republic of China	This course centers on the development of the People's Republic of China since its founding in 1949 and the changes and challenges it has undergone. It analyzes the evolution of national governance in contemporary China and examines the causes and impacts of major political, economic, diplomatic, and military events. On this basis, the course puts an emphasis on the Reform and Opening period that commenced at the end of 1978, and the social changes and development paths it has led to.	3

YEAR 3 - Departmental Electives			
Code	Course	Course description	Credits
HIST310	History of Song and Yuan Dynasties	Song and Yuan are the most misunderstood, underestimated and ignored dynasties in Chinese history. This period starts from Emperor Taizu established Song in Kaifeng in 960 and ends in 1368 when Emperor Shun of Yuan escaped to Magnolia from Dadu (Beijing). During the 409 years, there are also contemporary powers such as Liao which was established even earlier than Northern Song, Xixia and Jin founded in the middle and later period of Northern Song. Middle school textbooks and many popular reading materials are often filled with outdated viewpoints that Song was a weak dynasty that only values literature, or Yuan was backward and violent. This course aims to reintroduce the historic facts and achievements of Song and Yuan dynasties in political, military, diplomatic, social, economic, and cultural areas. Through the latest research achievements, students will acquire advanced understanding of the history of this period.	3
HIST311	History of Ming and Qing Dynasties	This course will mainly introduce significant historic events and academic topics in the Ming and Qing period of Chinese History. The lecture part of this course will start from the context of traditional political history, and analyse specific topics such as social, cultural, historical geography, and interactions of peoples. Critical reading of paradigms on certain research fields will also be held during class, to encourage students investigate related themes of history.	3
HIST330	History of Chinese and Western Historiographies	This course is divided into two parts, "China" and "Western". The "China" part describes: 1) The internal and external processes of the development of Chinese historiography itself, and a more detailed explanation of the reasons for its development. 2) Some people, events, and even years of great significance in the history of Chinese historiography, aiming to conduct a more in-depth and specialized discussion. The "Western" part introduces: 1) The internal and external processes of the development of Western historiography itself, and a more detailed explanation of the reasons for its development. 2) Some people, events, and even years of great significance in the history of Western historiography, aiming to conduct a more in-depth and specialized discussion.	3

HIST340	History of Urban Arts and Designs	This course introduces the main developments of urban arts and design from the modern time to the contemporary era across the world. It displays various forms of urban arts and designs and analyses the relationship between them and urban society from the perspective of arts and culture. Different types of art exhibitions and urban design will be demonstrated to reveal their characteristics, concealed ideas and emotions, including visual and audial art, sculptural art, literary art, performing art and architectural art. The relationship between museology and public history will be discussed, and the importance of urban arts and design to society in preserving history and collective memory and urban consciousness will also be deeply analyzed.	3
HIST360	Cultural Interactions between China and the World	This course consists of two parts: "Introduction" and "Thesis." The "Introduction" section provides an overview of the historical data and archaeological discoveries related to the Silk Road, briefly explaining the specific processes and cultural characteristics of historical cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries. The "Thesis" section focuses on discussing important historical figures, specific examples, social and cultural aspects, economic activities, and other topics related to the history of cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries. It also introduces the main research findings in the academic field within the scope.	3
HIST361	Historical Geography of China	“Locality” has a very crucial influence on historical development in different eras since it is the arena where history takes place. This course introduces students to the evolution and changes of Chinese history from the perspective of geography, and to understand the geographical landscape of China from the historical perspective. Students will be instructed by lectures, reading and reviewing Chinese classics and historical literature, comparing ancient and modern maps, classroom discussions, appreciation of multi-media and audio-visual records as well as field trips. After completion of the course, students will manage to grasp a basic but holistic understanding of the natural and human landscapes, border areas, metropolitan cities and battlegrounds which transcend ancient and modern times of China. Students will also be guided to contemplate the intimate relationship between history and geography.	3

HIST371	History of the Middle East	This course outlines the historical development and analysis of the main forces such as civilization, religion, ethnicity, geopolitics, wars, and the economy in making contemporary Middle East. The course reviews the impacts of the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire after the First World War and European colonialism in the post-Ottoman Middle East. Particular topics examine varied development paths of the Middle East from the post-Second World War and the USA involvement with the emergence of the Middle East today. The overall objective is to assess the making of contemporary Middle East with historical roots and global implications.	3
HIST380	Work Placement	This course offers students a challenging learning experience that combines stated pedagogical goals with real-world practices in an authentic organizational context. It enables students to benefit the organizations concerned with their historical wisdoms. It equips students with the transferrable skills for a wide range of careers, including education, editing and publishing, public administration, public relations, media, tourism, historical and cultural affairs.	3
Credits Required for Departmental Electives			9

YEAR 3 - Non-Departmental Electives	
Course	Credits
Non-Departmental Electives	9
TOTAL CREDITS	30

YEAR 4 - Departmental Requirements			
Code	Course	Course description	Credits
HIST420	History of World Religions	This course explores the importance of religious traditions in world civilizations, emphasising their beliefs and rituals. In particular, this course examines the view of life and death in major world religions thematically to identify and compare the differences and similarities among various religious beliefs. Its overall objective is to investigate the historical development of major world religions such as Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, and Islam in the world and Hong Kong to cultivate cross-cultural understanding.	3
HIST460	Urbanization, Industrialization and Globalization	This is a history of the intellectual odyssey of the modern Chinese intelligentsia from late Qing through the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. Increasingly alienated from the old order after the abortive 1898 reforms, and confronted with the need for national survival, members of the highly nationalist intelligentsia rejected Chinese, specifically Confucian, culture in total favour of "scientism" and "democracy" during the New Culture and May Fourth period. After 1919, the ideological split within the ranks of the intellectuals turned many disillusioned with the capitalist West to socialist ideas, including Marxian communism, and others to a new interpretation of Confucianism.	3
HIST465	Issues & Controversies in Chinese History	Designed for senior history majors, this course aims to explore major and controversial issues, events, or figures in Chinese history, especially in modern Chinese history. Firstly, through the instructor's lectures, students will learn about the major controversial issues in Chinese history, as well as the latest research findings within academia on these issues. Students will be introduced to the new discoveries, different or opposing viewpoints, as well as the focal points and causes of the controversies surrounding these historical issues. This will enable students to acquire a more mature, balanced, and open historical perspective and to integrate their previous historical knowledge and research methods to greatly deepen their understanding of historical phenomena. Secondly, the course provides students with a platform for extensive reading of historical materials,	3

		intensive exchange of academic viewpoints, and in-depth analysis of historical issues, so as to enhance their ability to conduct advanced research and write academic papers independently, as well as to practise teamwork and oral presentation, and to lay a foundation for independent research and analytical reports for their possible advancement to more advanced stages of their studies or professional careers in the future.	
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YEAR 4 - Departmental Electives

Code	Course	Course description	Credits
HIST400	History of Christianity in Modern China	This course provides an overview of the historical development of Christianity in modern China and examines Christian missionary's activities in China and their impact. Topics to be explored include cross-cultural exchanges of Christian missionary activities in the areas of religion, education, medicine, publishing, and social welfare. The overall objective of the course is to critically reflect on the relationship between modern China and the world from multiple perspectives through the lens of the history of Christianity in China.	3
HIST430	Study of Chinese Historical Texts: Shiji & Zizhitongjian	Among the classic works of traditional Chinese historiography are Shiji (Records of the Grand Historian) and Zizhi Tongjian (Comprehensive Mirror in Aid of Governance), which are essential readings for those who have studied history throughout the ages. This course focuses on close reading and in-depth analysis of the texts of Shiji and Zizhi Tongjian from a historical perspective, exploring and discovering details of major events in the historical accounts from selected chapters and encouraging students to appreciate and critique historical materials. Through a proper understanding of the characteristics of historical writings, students are trained to analyze issues from multiple perspectives and to develop critical thinking skills.	3

HIST440	Gender and Modernity in World Cities	TBC	3
HIST456	History of Modern Western Science and Technology	<p>This course will examine the global rise of modern Western science and technology from the era of industrialization to the contemporary time, highlighting the several waves of scientific and technological revolutions as well as the key issues in association with the relationship between the history of science and intellectual traditions and transformations around the world and exploring the global impact of Western science and technology. The course will cover the following parts: knowledge and innovative concepts; invented technologies that changed the era; medicine and hygiene; the impact of astronomy and physics on the world today; IT technology and innovation in the world today. The overall purpose of this course is to enable students to understand the development of modern science and technology and analyse its relationship and interaction with the development of modern society.</p>	3
HIST463	Economic History of Hong Kong since 1949	<p>Drawing on economic theories such as liberal economy, comparative advantage, and regional cooperation, this course covers Hong Kong's economic history from the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 to the present day and while exploring relevant historical events. It probes into the evolution of the internal and external factors that have driven Hong Kong's economic development and their impacts on Hong Kong's broader economic and industrial structure. It also analyzes the status and role of Hong Kong's economy in its economic and trade relationship with China and the world today.</p>	3

HIST468-469	Thesis	With a view to developing student's ability to integrate what they have learnt in separate subjects over the past 3 academic years, students on this course are required to submit a thesis based on the findings of a research topic in history approved by the Department. Students will, with advice from teachers, select a worthy research topic, conduct historical research, produce outline, bibliography and write a thesis conforming to all requirements regarding style and format – including its drafts, revision and the final version.	6
HIST470	Modern History of International Relations	This course introduces the historical development of modern international order from the making of Westphalian-state system in the 17th century to the present. The course will cover the basic concepts of the diplomatic theories and key issues and events of the international relations since the era of the establishment of nation-states and explore their formations and motivations, with a focus on the history of the transformation of Western international relation. The overall purpose of the course is to enable students to have a deeper grasp of the historical background of contemporary world issues through the understanding of the history of international relations, and to use it as a basis for further analysis on current issues.	3
HIST472	Art History of the West	This course is to introduce students to a general history of Western arts from prehistorical period to the Classical period, Medieval period, Renaissance, the period of Mannerism, Baroque and Rococo, the Modern era of Neo-Classicalism, Romanticism, Academism and Realism, the Modern art and Post-modernism of the Contemporary art. Students will learn how to analyse, interpret and appreciate Western arts and visual culture, with an attempt to examine histories via arts and visual communication and within cultural context and study human expression through an engagement with cultural objects, images and ideas, artists and historians document the changing world.	3

HIST477	History of Hong Kong Education	This course is aiming to help students understand the change of the society and the current situation, and transformations that would be made in the preschool, basic and higher levels educational systems. We aim to teach students to understand the characteristics in the development and diversity of Hong Kong educational systems, together with the globalization of China.	3
HIST480	Intellectual History of the West	TBC	3
HIST488	Pedagogy of History Teaching	This course would be suitable for students who want to aim their career path in the teaching of Chinese History or any history teaching. The course is designed to analyse the value of learning history, aim of history teaching, checking up and designing the current course, professionalism of a history teacher, using of the teaching materials and methods, inter and extra-curricular activities, preparing the exam and assessment methods etc.	3
Credits Required for Departmental Electives			15
TOTAL CREDITS			24
The minimum credits required for graduation			125