

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

To: All new full-time undergraduate Bachelor of Arts and Sciences (BASc) students

Notes for New BASc Students

I am pleased to welcome you to the Faculty of Social Sciences. I hope you will find the coming years both intellectually stimulating and academically rewarding.

Registration Documents

The dates for completing the registration and course selection formalities are given in document SS17/819, which also includes information of major events in this academic year.

Regulations and Syllabuses

When you read all the details concerning registration, University regulations and so on, the next and most important thing you have to do is to choose courses you wish to study in the coming year. Course list and regulations governing the selection of courses are stated in the “Regulations for First Degree Curricula” and the “Regulations and Syllabuses for the respective Degrees” at <http://www.socsc.hku.hk/reg>.

Course Selection

The first semester of the 2019-2020 academic year begins on Monday, September 2, 2019, and you are expected to attend lectures, tutorials, etc. from that day onwards. Please visit the departmental website(s) from which you have selected your courses and pay attention to the emails sent from the departments, as they will give further details with regard to timetables of courses, books to be used and so on. You should also check the location of the lecture theatres and tutorial rooms in advance.

The course selection period for the 2019-2020 academic year is **from August 21 (10:00am) to August 27 (4:00pm), 2019**, you are required to complete the course selection for the whole academic year via the HKU Portal.

If for any reason you subsequently wish to make changes in your course selection, you may do so in the first and second weeks of the semester [i.e. **from September 2 (10:00am) to September 16 (4:00pm), 2019 for the first semester**]. This should again be done through the HKU Portal.

Some courses are offered twice a year and you are required to indicate the exact semester as well as the sub-class you wish to take when completing your online course selection. However, your preferred sub-class may need to be changed to achieve a more even distribution of students for a particular course. You are advised to check the course selection status online via HKU Portal before the semester begins. In planning your studies, you should also note that, in addition to lectures, courses

may consist of tutorials, seminars, exercise classes or laboratory work; information on these will be given by the departments at the beginning of the semester. Such groups may meet at any time during the week, provided that they do not clash with the lecture hours of the students participating in a particular group. Attendance is obligatory.

Language Enhancement and Common Core Courses

According to the graduation requirements prescribed in UG5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula, students are required to successfully complete the following courses:

- i) a 6-credit Chinese language enhancement course [CSSC9001 / CART9001 / CSCI9001 / CUND9002 (for Putonghua-speaking students) / CUND9003 (for Putonghua-speaking students)];
- ii) a 6-credit English in the Discipline course; and
- iii) 24 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum within the first three years of study, comprising one from each Area of Inquiry.

Exemption of Chinese Language Enhancement

To fulfil the Chinese language enhancement requirement, students should take CSSC9001 “Practical Chinese for Social Sciences students” or CART9001 “Practical Chinese for Arts Students” or CSCI9001 “Practical Chinese for Science Students”.

However, students who have not studied the Chinese language during their secondary education or who have not attained the requisite level of competence in the Chinese language enhancement course may apply for exemption and take a 6-credit Cantonese or Putonghua language courses offered by the School of Chinese (especially for international/exchange students), or an elective course in lieu. Such students are required to submit an application to the Faculty Office for exemption via the link at <https://www.socsc.hku.hk/webforms/chiexemption> **on or before September 13, 2019**. Late application will not be considered.

After the aforementioned date, students who wish to apply for exemption are required to complete and submit a hard copy of application form, which is available at http://www.socsc.hku.hk/students/ug/pdf/forms/Exempt_CSSC9001_form.pdf, to the Faculty Office before the second semester of the Year II of studies.

Academic Advising

Each new student will be assigned a Faculty Student Adviser (FSA) to assist them in adjusting to the university studies as well as the registration and course enrolment process. FSA also provides new students with support on the academic transition to the University and share successful study strategies.


In addition, each student will have a Faculty Academic Adviser (FAA). You are required to sign up for your FAA **from 6:00pm, August 9, 2019 (Friday) to 11:59pm, August 15, 2019 (Thursday)** at <https://ugaa.hku.hk/signup-faa.php>. If you do not sign up by August 15, 2019, the System will randomly assign one to you. All students are strongly encouraged to meet with their assigned Academic Adviser at least once per semester during the first year to discuss various academic issues and their learning experience.

Information Technology Services Guide

For details of the services provided by the Information Technology Services, please refer to <http://www.its.hku.hk/>.

Enquiries

If you have any queries concerning the degree regulations and syllabuses, your choice of courses or any aspect of University life, you are welcome to contact the Faculty Office either in person, or by telephone at 3917 1213. The Office is pleased to assist you whenever possible.



Tommy Fan
Acting Faculty Secretary

TF/pk
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