Notes for New 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 set out in document SS93/720 – DE Yr III, 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. Courses available 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 2020-2021 academic year begins on Monday, September 1, 2020, 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 and/or links for online teaching sessions as appropriate.

The course selection period for the 2020-2021 academic year is from August 5 (12:00nn) to August 11 (4:00pm), 2020. You are required to complete the course selection for the whole academic year and declare your major via the HKU Portal.

If for any reason that you subsequently wish to make changes in your course selection, you may do so in the first and second weeks after the commencement of the semester [i.e. from September 1 (2:00pm) to September 15 (4:00pm), 2020 for the first semester] during the course add/drop period. 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 better 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**

Students admitted from the Direct Admissions Scheme are required to successfully complete i) a 6-credit English in the Discipline course and ii) two 6-credit courses in the Common Core Curriculum in **two different Areas of Inquiry** within the first year of studies, i.e. Year III.

**Information Technology Services Guide**

For details of the services provided by the Information Technology Services, please refer to [http://www.its.hku.hk/](http://www.its.hku.hk/).

**Enquiries**

If you have any questions concerning the degree regulations, your choice of courses or any aspect of University life, you are welcome to contact the Faculty Office either by email at socscug@hku.hk, or by telephone at 3917 1212. The Office is pleased to assist you whenever possible.

\[\text{Ms. Maggie Cheuk} \]
Faculty Secretary

MC/PK/gc

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