To:  All new full-time undergraduate Social Sciences students

Notes for New Social Sciences 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 SS68/719, 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.sosce.hku.hk/reg. To facilitate your course selection, please visit the website at http://www.sosce.hku.hk/enrollment.

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 / CUND9002 (for Putonghua-speaking students) / CUND9003 (for Putonghua-speaking students)];

ii) a 6-credit Core University English course (CAES1000);

iii) a 6-credit English in the Discipline course;

iv) 36 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum within the first three years of study, comprising at least one and not more than two courses from each Area of Inquiry with not more than 24 credits of courses being selected within one academic year except where candidates are required to make up for failed credits (non-BSoSc(Govt&Laws) & LLB students only); and

v) 24 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum within the first three years of study, comprising not more than one courses from each Area of Inquiry (BSoSc(Govt&Laws) & LLB students only).

**Exemption of CAES1000**

Students obtained the following qualifications are exempted from the requirement (ii) in the above, and Core University English (CAES1000) is optional. Those who do not take this course should take a 6-credit elective course in lieu.

i) achieved Level 5 or above in the English Language paper in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination

ii) holder of Bachelor's degree from an English-medium university

iii) achieved Grade A or above in English Language GCE Advanced Level (AL)/ Advanced Subsidiary Level (ASL)

iv) achieved an overall IELTS score of no less than 7 AND with all sub-scores no less than 6.5 on the Reading, Speaking, Listening and Writing Tests

v) achieved an overall TOEFL Internet-based test score of no less than 94 AND no less than a 24 on the writing, a 20 on the speaking, a 20 on the listening, AND a 19 on the reading sections

vi) achieved in International Baccalaureate (IB) Grade 4 or above in English A1/ English Language A/ English A: Language/ English A: Language and Literature (HL); or Grade 5 or above in English B/ English Language B (HL); or Grade 5 or above in English A1/ English Language A/ English A: Language/ English A: Language and Literature (SL)

vii) achieved Grade 4 or above on the Advanced Placement (AP) English Language/ English Language and Composition/ English Literature and Composition Test

viii) achieved a NEW Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score of 35 or above on both the Writing & Language Test and Reading Test (from 2016)

ix) achieved Grade B or above in H1 General Paper at the Singapore GCE A-level

x) achieved Grade A or better in English language at Malaysia SPM examination
xi) achieved Grade A2 or better in Malaysia UEC-Senior English Language
xii) attained merit (3 points) or above in each set of credits in New Zealand NCEA
     Literacy (10 credits made up of 5 credits in reading and 5 credits in writing)
xiii) achieved a score of 95% or better in English at All India Senior School
     Certificate Examination / Higher School Certificate
xiv) achieved a final score of 90% or better in English at Grade 12 Canadian high
     school curriculum
xv) achieved Grade B or better in English Language at Sri Lanka Ordinary
     examination
xvi) achieved a score of 90 or better in English in the Russian Unified State Exam
     (Единый государственный экзамен, ЕГЭ, Yediniy gosudarstvennyiy ekzamen, EGE)

The exemption shall be granted automatically to eligible students based on the
academic results provided for admission. The record of exemption for CAES1000
will be shown on the Degree Audit Report in Student Information System (SIS)
starting from August 19, 2019. For other students who have satisfied the above
criteria but do not see the exemption record, please submit an online application to the
Faculty Office via the link at https://www.soesc.hku.hk/webforms/cueexemption on
or before September 2, 2019.

For students who have not taken any of the above tests, you can apply for
exemption by sitting for the Academic Writing and Speaking test conducted by the
Centre for Applied English Studies scheduled on August 29, 2019. Details of the
test are available at https://learning.hku.hk/caes1000/. Please submit your application
via the link at https://www.soesc.hku.hk/webforms/cueexemption on or before
August 22, 2019.

Students can add/drop a CUE class freely only in the FIRST week of the
add/drop period during the first or second semester. In the SECOND week of the
add/drop period, students (including those optional students, i.e. students who
achieved DSE English Language Level 5 or above, or equivalent) can only change to
another CUE class if they can prove that their CUE course clashes with their core
course. Students (including those optional students) adding/dropping a CUE class in
the SECOND week of the add/drop period will not be accepted normally. Please
note that this arrangement for CAES1000 is different from the enrolment guidelines in
other University courses.

Exemption of CSSC9001

To fulfill the Chinese language enhancement requirement, students should take
CSSC9001 "Practical Chinese for Social Sciences students" in the second semester of
the Year II studies.

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.soesc.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.soesc.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 1212 [BSocSc] / 3917 1218 [BJ and BSW] / 3917 1214 [BSocSc(Govt&Laws)&LLB]. The Office is pleased to assist you whenever possible.

(Miss) Vanessa Sit
Acting Faculty Secretary

VS/GC/jt
July 2019