

Master of Arts in Humanities Education

Course Code	Course Title	Course Synopses	AU
MAS901	Issues and Research in Humanities Education	This course will provide an introduction to issues and research in humanities education and opportunities to examine the ways current research can be applied to classroom practice in Singapore. Participants will have opportunities to examine issues central to curriculum, student learning and thinking, and pedagogy, and consider implications these studies have for teaching and learning in the humanities. The course provides opportunities to explore a range of issues, the purposes of the subjects and different perspectives within the field.	4
MAS910	Governance and Public Policy	This course gives an introduction to goals, principles and indicators of good governance, the public policy making process and conceptual models for policy analysis. Participants will examine governance by governments in representative democracies, with particular reference to Singapore. Participants will also be exposed to debates on how to sustain good governance in a future which will be more complex and unpredictable, and the feasibility and necessity of global governance and a world government.	4
MAS912	Heritage, History and Culture	Students are engaged in making practical assessments of historic landscapes and examining the heritage value of historical sites and landmarks. They do a major case study of a place that they consider to be of heritage value and how their own family history relates to that place. The significance and meaning of what constitutes heritage is covered. Students consider why some historical sites and monuments and not others are regarded as essential for school field trips and tourism. The question of how the public perceives the past as it is presented in museums and in historic buildings is also analysed.	4
MAS913	Conflict and Cooperation in International Relations	The course will provide an introduction and critical examination of international relations and key issues governing world politics. While acknowledging the three core international relations theories of realism, liberalism and globalism, key issues are analysed in relation to historical legacies, the impact of globalisation and the current alleged unravelling of neo-liberalism. With the examination of conflicts, the course will also assess the mechanics and importance of cooperation as part of international relations. As an integrated course, the intricacies of international relations will be examined within a students presumed knowledge of past and current issues as an imperative requirement for a critical engagement to the discourses.	4

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MAS914	Government and Politics in Southeast Asia	The course aims to underline the challenging diversity of the Southeast Asian region as informed not just by obvious geographical differences but also by the complexity of its political, social, cultural and economic heritages and ambitions. An awareness of past and present intertwining processes that impacted governments and politics of the region have continued in the light of evolving global and regional power maneuverings. As such the course aims to examine emerging trends, contemporary postulations and critical assessments of a region currently pivoted among major competing regional and global interests.	4
MAS915	Multicultural Studies	This course will deconstruct the word multiculturalism beyond the usual descriptive and anecdotal use of the word. Discussion will be an analytical exercise on the political, social, economic and theoretical meanings, consequences and dynamics of the term and its impact. Case studies and issues significant to both national and international context will be analysed as framed by an increasingly globalised world that does not necessarily facilitate multicultural sensibilities. Essentially, the course is not to understand the other but to dispel the notion that being ostensibly multiracial is to be multicultural. This course will also interrogate such issues as difference, inclusion, exclusion within the framework of working towards an understanding of fairness and justice.	4
MAS916	Social Studies in Today's Schools	This course aims to develop in participants a critical understanding of the Social Studies curriculum, teaching and learning in Singapore. It addresses fundamental issues concerning the purposes and aims of Social Studies and examines the curriculum as it is implemented in Singapore's schools. Participants will be encouraged to explore the challenges to and possibilities of successful teaching and learning of the subject.	4
MAS917	Citizenship Education in a Global Age	This course examines the implications of educating young people in a global society and the challenges posed to nation-states, concepts of nationhood and national identity, and citizenship in rapidly changing contexts. The course will provide an introduction to citizenship education in new global contexts through an examination of current scholarly literature about new and emerging global contexts, new forms of civic participation, and new conceptions of citizenship and citizenship education to consider the implications for civic education in a global age.	4

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MAS918	Social Studies and Curriculum Theory	This course is a general overview of major modern curriculum theorists and the ways in which they have influenced the development of the social studies. Debates about the meaning of curriculum and various approaches to the development and understanding of curriculum will shed light on current social studies curriculum in Singapore. Students will become familiar with processes for the development and analysis of the planned curriculum in social studies.	4
MAS919	GIS and Geospatial Learning in the Humanities	This course is designed to introduce the use of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) technologies in social sciences. It focuses on the theories and principles of GIS and GIS applications in social sciences, including social studies, urban analysis and planning, tourism, and health geography. The course requires participants to engage in group discussions on spatial phenomena of social issues, and have hands-on exercises through real-world case studies by using ArcGIS software. Through this course, participants will learn to collect data and conduct spatial analysis, interpretation and presentation of geographic information under social context.	4
MAS925	Women in East Asia	This course seeks to explore the history of women in East Asia (namely China, Japan, and South Korea), through a survey which will incorporate past and contemporary interpretations and critiques of gender theories that have been articulated. It will examine the definitions of femininity and feminism within the patriarchal societies of East Asia and look at how women, through the centuries, negotiated their social, political, economic and legal boundaries to create a space and place for themselves. Traditional paradigms and moments of historical change will also be explored to extrapolate the changing roles and expectations of women in East Asia. This course will allow students to better understand the situation of women in East Asia in the past as well as contemporary gender issues in general.	4
MAS930	Research in the Geography Classroom	This course will deepen the geography teachers professional development through encouraging research in the classroom. Students will do a mini-research project, in addition to critically reflecting on the intellectual and practical questions that research raises. Ultimately, the classroom research course aims to improve teacher professional development so as to develop geography educators who will teach geography effectively to students who live in an increasing complex world.	4

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MAS931	Debates and Issues in Geography Education	This course engages participants in the major debates and issues in geography education. It also focuses on the implications that these debates and issues have for the teaching of school geography in Singapore and beyond. The course is designed to help participants develop both a global understanding of these topics and an ability to apply key ideas in their practice.	4
MAS932	Geography and the Geography Educator	While Geography as an academic discipline involves the study of the interactions between physical and human environments, of different spatial locations, place and scales, geography education goes beyond teaching students about the subject matter of geography to include important issues of environmental, social and cultural consequence. This course will discuss the relationship between the geography disciplinary knowledge and school geography, as well as examine the geography of geographical education, in terms of its variation across spatial, social, cultural, economic and political contexts, with a view to develop geography educators to teach school students geography that is relevant to the changing needs of our world.	4
MAS933	The Early Modern Origins of Globalization, 1450-1750	This course probes into the debate and origins of globalization in the early modern period. In the process, issues relating to crises and wars on a global scale, economic systems of the period, as well as issues pertaining to cultural diffusion are explored through films, discussions and presentations. These sub-topics are examined as part of approaches and modeling in the study of the globalization phenomenon in the first part of the course. The second part of the course explores facets of the phenomenon on the ground in various regions of the world from the Far East, Middle East to the Americas. Globalization is a topic that sees its share of discussion in the curriculums of history, geography, social studies and even the language and finer arts subjects in schools. Engaging the phenomenon and issues arising from this will hopefully permit a better facilitation of students learning.	4
MAS934	History Education - Teaching for Historical Understanding	This course engages students in learning to teach for historical understanding. Course readings, classroom discussion and written assignments will address major conceptual perspectives on teaching for historical understanding and key research on the teaching and learning of history. Students will work together as a community of inquiry to critically investigate important issues in history teaching, explore relevant international research, and apply their ideas to concrete examples pertinent to Singapore.	4

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MAS935	Issues and Research in History Education	This course explores a range of issues in history education and examines important developments in international research on history teaching and learning. It offers students the opportunity to develop their understanding of the different ways societies have conceived the aims and purpose of history education, and challenges their assumptions on what it means to teach history in schools. Students will examine issues related to: history's place in society, the value of history education in the curriculum, the nature of public debates over history education, aspects of curriculum design and development, and international research on students thinking in history.	4
MAS936	Contemporary Singapore	<p>This course is a state-of-the-field study of the history and governance of Singapore. Students are invited to participate in a survey and case analyses of contemporary Singapore from post-war, 1945 to the present. The focus will be on the evolving political, social-cultural and economic dimensions that shape the landscape of contemporary Singapore. It is thematic and issue-oriented. Students will examine the political, social and economic challenges facing Singapore today, and critically evaluate potential solutions.</p> <p>Given the increased emphasis on Singapore history in the lower secondary history curriculum, as well as in the primary and secondary curriculum, this course will help teachers acquire a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the historical and contemporary challenges facing Singapore today.</p>	4
MAS937	Ancient Civilizations of the East	This course will provide a survey of the ancient civilizations of the East, namely China, India, and Southeast Asia. There will be specific focus on political and social institutions and developments with a view of showing the continuity between the past and the present. This course will further acquaint students with the archaeological evidence and literature of the ancient world of the East. This course is designed for history and social studies teachers as well as anyone who is interested.	4
MAS938	Economic Issues in Social Studies	This course is designed for teachers of humanities and other disciplines who would like to strengthen their economic lens in analyzing and evaluating issues in social studies. It includes an overview of fundamental economic concepts, indicators of a nation's economic health, government management of the economy, globalization and policy studies with special reference to Singapore.	4

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MAS939	Action Research for Social Studies Teachers	This course seeks to encourage teachers to develop a critical and systematic inquiry on some aspects of their classroom practices through action research. It aims to promote their reflective practice and professional learning anchored on a commitment to improve their classroom practices. This course will focus on the work of scholars in the fields of action research and social studies, and examine the key theoretical underpinnings as well as the relevant research methods. Teachers will get to design and conduct an action research inquiry or project of their choice, and through their inquiry, reflect upon issues such as national education, values and citizenship education.	4
MAS940	Curriculum Leadership in Social Studies	Many issues and challenges are involved in the implementation of Social Studies, one of the most important subjects for citizenship education. This course aims to prepare participants to lead in curriculum development, pedagogical innovations and professional development in social studies. Participants will be encouraged to examine the distinction between curriculum management and leadership, and to consider opportunities for collaborative curriculum design and professional discourse on the theory and practice of curriculum leadership.	4
MAS941	Field Inquiry in Physical Geography	Fieldwork plays a critical role in physical geography through which new understandings of the world can be crystallized by the analysis of the data collected from the field. The focus of this course is on the theoretical understanding of the place of fieldwork in physical geography, as well as the practical application of fieldwork techniques to geographical inquiry. This combination of theory and fieldwork addresses the current approaches in the Geography curriculum and would further enable participants to update their knowledge and practice of field inquiry. Participants would also be able to apply new understandings in considering the contribution of fieldwork in physical geography to academic and school geography.	4
MAS942	Field Inquiry in Human Geography	This course intends to provide the experience of doing fieldwork in Human Geography and broadly in social sciences. This course covers various research methods, such as from participant observation, interviews, sampling, focus-group discussion and visual methods. With both theoretical and empirical experiences, this course will provide an understanding of ways to collect primary data, analysing and making sense of data.	4

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MAS943	Topics in Sustainability	This course examines topics in sustainability and sustainable development through the lens of the Three Pillar Model that focuses on the interrelated factors of economy, society, and environment. By adopting an issues-based inquiry approach, this course will provide participants with an understanding of leading theories and practices in sustainability, enabling participants to appreciate the multidisciplinary nature of sustainability science	4
MAS944	Global Cities	The 21st century is known as the urban century as the majority of the worlds population is moving to urban regions. With increasing processes of globalisation, cities are the new engines of growth for the global economy. While London, New York and Tokyo still occupy the top ranks of global cities, many cities from Global South are challenging this dominance. This course will attempt to introduce the students to the processes of urbanisation the urban ways of life and appreciate the emergence of global cities beyond the Global North. While this course will discuss the theoretical underpinning of increasing prominence of global cities, it will also include various empirical and grounded experiences of global cities around the world. Especially issues related to urban liveability, sustainability, water, housing and other urban infrastructure issues, which will help students achieve a better understanding of the contemporary urban world will be covered.	4
MAS945	Geographies of Travel and Tourism in Asia	In recent times, tourism has become the largest industry in the Asian region, according to a number of indicators. Tourism and travel provide windows for interpreting a range of social, cultural, political and spatial processes. New trends in Asia such as the increasing mobility of populations, the rise of aging populations and rapid urbanization and the growing importance of health and wellness are some of the changes that have impacted on the nature of travel and tourism. This course will examine the geographies of major trends in tourism and travel, focusing specifically on Southeast and East Asia. It will also discuss the political geographies of tourism spaces and landscapes, the role of the State in tourism and the ways tourism often exacerbates existing as well as creating new inequalities.	4
MAS946	Environmental Planning and Management	This course examines selected environmental challenges in urban areas and explores planning solutions and management options to avoid or mitigate such problems. Multidisciplinary, integrated solutions that follow principles of sustainability are emphasized.	4

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MAS947	Sociology of Education	<p>This course introduces students to key perspectives and themes in the sociology of education. Sociology of education studies education as an integral part of larger social systems and institutions, often with a critical view on the ways in which education is implicated in the relations of power and inequality that traverse these systems and institutions.</p> <p>Theoretical perspectives covered in this course include the functionalist, the Marxist/Marxian, and various other critical perspectives hinging on social differences such as culture, power, gender, race/ethnicity. Other important themes such as neoliberal-ism/ization, globalization and inter-/trans-national mobility, curriculum, critical pedagogy and alternative education, are also examined.</p>	4
MAS981	Critical Thinking and Writing in the Humanities	<p>This course will introduce students to the thinking and academic writing skills they need in history, geography and the social sciences and the ways these can be applied in social studies education. The ways in which arguments are constructed and presented will be studied through workshops and seminars. Students are required to play an active role in this course. The basic principles in critical thinking and writing are illustrated through practical examples prepared by students, which will become the basis for continuous assessment for the subject.</p>	2