To: CUHK Teachers

 **Invitation to be our MASS Mentor (2024-2025 Winter)**

***MASS for our students***

Our students want to read and need to read. Our library is a treasure waiting for their discovery. However, there are so many books in the treasure that our students may feel overwhelmed and unsure of where to begin. As educators, we should support and guide our students in their intellectual pursuits. By providing encouragement and mentorship, we can help them unlock the door to a world of knowledge. By fostering a sense of learning community among our students, we can create a collaborative environment for them to nurture a love of reading and learning.

MASS (Mentor-Assisted Study Scheme) is a collaborative initiative between the Office of University General Education and the Chinese University of Hong Kong Library. We are inviting CU teachers to be MASS mentors. The MASS Mentor will select a good book for a small group of students and guide them in their reading. Our goal for MASS is simple and ambitious:

MASS is to provide students with a rich and meaningful reading experience that is facilitated by knowledgeable and supportive MASS mentors.

For more about MASS, please

1. refer to these PowerPoint slides: <https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/oge/gef/mass/MASS-Introduction.pdf>,

2. visit the MASS website: <https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/oge/gef/mass>, or

3. send an email to [xinxinma@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:xinxinma@cuhk.edu.hk).

***To be our MASS mentor (2024-2025 Winter)***

The 2024-2025 Winter season of MASS will begin in the week of 23-27 December 2024, when all final exams will have been finished. On behalf of all CUHK students who are eager to learn, the MASS project team cordially invites you to join us as a MASS mentor and lead a reading group. If you are interested to be a MASS mentor, please

1. download and fill in the reply slip: <https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/oge/gef/mass/MASS-ReplySlip.docx> and

2. send the reply slip to us ([xinxinma@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:xinxinma@cuhk.edu.hk)) by 22 November 2024 (Friday).

We are looking forward to your favourable reply. For enquiries, please contact me (Dr. WONG Wing Hung, [whwong@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:whwong@cuhk.edu.hk), 39431503).

***MASS reading groups in the past seasons***

Since February 2023, there have been 27 MASS reading groups, each consisting of 2 to 5 students. Every group represents an intellectual journey into the world of books. The MASS mentors and readings are listed in the webpage below:

<https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/oge/gef/mass/group.html>

***Good reads for our students***

The good books selected for our students are not just any good book but those that can extend the learning experience of students who have taken or are currently taking the GE Foundation courses (“In Dialogue with Humanity” and “In Dialogue with Nature”). The following text selection criteria, while not meant to be necessary and sufficient conditions for text selection for the GE Foundation courses, can serve as useful guidelines for choosing books for MASS.

1. The text has had an influence on the development of human inquiry; it is still being read or referred to widely for inspiration and enrichment;

2. The text is rich in concepts, stimulating and provocative, bearing on important perennial issues that concern humanity, with important consequences;

3. The text is part of the heritage of world civilization; it has cross-cultural and universal significance;

4. The text has relevance to contemporary society;

5. The text will make a difference to the students’ university education in complementing the training they receive from their major programme or discipline, and in enlightening them on broad issues of concern to humanity and society;

6. The text can be understood by beginning undergraduate students with guidance and instruction.

***Reading as an intellectual expedition***

A MASS reading group typically comprises not more than five students (undergraduate and postgraduate) who would read together and overcome difficulties in reading. Over a period of several weeks, they will read a book and meet several times to discuss it. The meeting times can either be prescribed by the MASS mentor or decided in the first meeting by all group members. It is expected that the MASS reading group will create a collaborative learning environment for students to embark on an intellectual expedition. Following the conclusion of the intellectual journey will be two activities, (1) production of 3-minute podcasts and (2) student book-review sessions, that would leave a lasting impact. The student’s participation in the activities will be recorded in the [Student Development Portfolio](http://www.sdp.cuhk.edu.hk/).

In addition to the intellectual satisfaction gained from MASS, students who have completed the programme will also receive a book coupon worth HK$100 as a token of appreciation.

Once again, we cordially invite you to be our MASS Mentor. Please

1. download and fill in the reply slip: <https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/oge/gef/mass/MASS-ReplySlip.docx> and

2. send the reply slip to us ([xinxinma@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:xinxinma@cuhk.edu.hk)) by 22 November 2024 (Friday).

We are looking forward to your favourable reply. For enquiries, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Wing Hung WONG

Principal Supervisor

MASS Project

Office of University General Education

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

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MASS Project Team Members (in alphabetical order):

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Ms. MA Xinxin 馬昕欣女士 (Office of University General Education)

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