

MODULE SPECIFICATION FORM

Module Title: Research Methods in the Humanities	Level: 5	Credit Value: 20
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Module code: HUM529	Cost Centre: GAHN	JACS3 code: X210
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Trimester(s) in which to be offered: 2	With effect from: September 2014
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Office use only: To be completed by AQSU:	Date approved: July 2014 Date revised: - Version no: 1
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Existing/New: New	Title of module being replaced (if any): N/A
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Originating Academic Department: Creative Industries	Module Leader: Deniz Baker (English)/Kathryn Ellis (History)
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Module duration (total hours): 200	Status: core/option/elective (identify programme where appropriate): Core
Scheduled learning & teaching hours: 60	
Independent study hours: 140	
Placement hours: 0	

Programme(s) in which to be offered: BA(Hons) History BA (Hons) English BA (Hons) English & Creative Writing BA(Hons) History & Creative Writing BA (Hons) English and History	Pre-requisites per programme (between levels): None
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Module Aims

This module aims to :

- explore the historiography and current scholarship of a range of literary/historical themes
- examine the feasibility of a topic and sources to sustain an 8000 word dissertation/extended project

Intended Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this module, students should be able to:

1. Explain the state of historical/literary scholarship in relation to a selected field of study (KS1, KS3, KS9)
2. Analyse primary and specialised secondary source material to synthesise and evaluate themes (KS1, KS3, KS4, KS5, KS6, KS9)
3. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of methodological approaches to the source material under investigation (KS1, KS4, KS5, KS6, KS10)
4. Produce a balanced feasibility study for an independent project which is underpinned by appropriate scholarship (KS1, KS5, KS6, KS9)

Key skills (KS) for employability

1. *Written, oral and media communication skills*
2. *Leadership, team working and networking skills*
3. *Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills*
4. *Information technology skills and digital literacy*
5. *Information management skills*
6. *Research skills*
7. *Intercultural and sustainability skills*
8. *Career management skills*
9. *Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self-management)*
10. *Numeracy*

Assessment:

This assessment aims to provide students with a strong platform for the 8000 word dissertation. Students will be required to select a research area which may be suitable for investigation in a dissertation of this length. The study will include a review of relevant literature and identify the issues and questions with which scholars are engaged. This will aim to ensure effective contextualisation for the chosen topic. Consideration will be given to the availability of primary source material, appropriate research questions and the methodologies to be employed in the dissertation.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1.	1,2,3,	Presentation	30%	10 mins	
2.	1,2,3,4	Research Proposal	70%		2000 words

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

Tutor-led sessions at the start of the module will introduce students to key methodological approaches and introduce students to case studies in the different Humanities disciplines. Sessions will also focus on literature reviews and ways of utilising different categories of evidence. Alumni will introduce some group sessions in order to present different perspectives on research experience. Tutorials, both group and individual, will form a key part of the learning and teaching strategy for this module.

Indicative Syllabus outline:

- Research frameworks in the disciplines
- Searching out gaps in scholarship
- Deconstructing research articles
- Research Practice
- Presentations of case studies in potential research areas: oral history projects,
- Importance of a feasibility study
- How to plan research questions
- Bibliographical searches and queries

Bibliography:**Essential reading:**

Richardson, B. (ed.), *MHRA Style Guide. A Handbook for Authors, Editors, and Writers of Theses*, 3rd edition (MHRA, 2013)

Other indicative reading:

Berry, R., *Research Project: How to Write it* 5th Edition (Oxford: Routledge, 2004)

Davies, M.B., *Doing a Successful Research Project: Using Qualitative or Quantitative Methods* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007)

Griffin, Gabriele (ed.), *Research Methods for English Studies*, 2nd edition (Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 2013)

Gunn, S., & Lucy Faire, *Research Methods for History* (Edinburgh, Edinburgh UP, 2011)

Rudenstam, K.E. & Newton, R.R., (eds.), *Surviving Your Dissertation: A Comprehensive Guide to Content and Process* 3rd edition (London: Sage, 2007)

Stevens, R.E., *How to prepare a feasibility study: A Step-by-step guide* (New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1982)

Thomas, Gary, *How to do your Case Study: A Guide for Students and Researchers* (London: Sage Pub. Ltd., 2010)