

Nottingham Trent University

Module Specification

	Basic module information	
1	Module Title:	Dissertation
2	Module Code:	HIST32005
3	Credit Points:	40
4	Duration:	Year Long
5	School:	Arts and Humanities
6	Campus:	Clifton
7	Date this version first approved to run:	October 2006

8 Pre, post and co-requisites:

These are modules that you must have studied previously in order to take this module, or modules that you must study simultaneously or in a subsequent academic session

<u>Pre, Co, Post</u>	<u>Module Code</u>	<u>Module Title</u>
Pre	HIST20112	History: Theory, Method and Interpretation OR

9 Courses containing the module

<u>Level</u>	<u>Core/Option</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
		FT	HIST001	BA (H) History
		PT	HIST002	BA (H) History
		FT	HUMA004	BA (H) Communication & Society and History
		FT	HUMA012	BA (H) English and History
		FT	HUMA020	BA (H) European Studies and History
		FT	HUMA025	BA (H) Film & TV and History
		FT	HUMA029	BA (H) Global Studies and History
		FT	HUMA035	BA (H) History and International Relations
		FT	HUMA036	BA (H) History and Linguistics
		FT	HUMA037	BA (H) History and Media
		FT	HUMA038	BA (H) History and Philosophy
		FT	HUMA039	BA (H) History and Politics
		SW	MODL008	BA (H) French and History
		SW	MODL021	BA (H) German and History
		SW	MODL034	BA (H) Italian and History

10 Overview and aims

The dissertation is a major piece of work in the (very broad) discipline of History and it provides the opportunity for you to work as an historian in the identification, development and execution of a sustained piece of historical research. The dissertation allows you to demonstrate and document your skills, knowledge, and independent initiative.

The module aims to:

- enable you to undertake a substantial piece of original work in a particular area of interest within the discipline of History;
- enable you to demonstrate a high level of independent learning and self-development: to plan a major assignment, undertake research at an advanced level, apply investigatory and analytical skills, present findings and conclusions, and reflect upon and evaluate your work critically;
- enable you to gain experience of working on a complex and substantial assignment over an extended period of time;
- provide you with the opportunity to draw selectively and critically upon a body of knowledge and information and draw new insights, ideas, and perspectives.

11 Module content

The choice of dissertation will depend on your interests and it will be influenced by staff expertise, research and scholarship, as well as the availability of resources. Within a topic of your own choosing, and subject to the approval of your supervisor, you are expected to conduct an original piece of work, which is

- based on the substantial use of primary sources, or
- which is a critical synthesis of substantial secondary sources and which makes an original contribution by offering a reinterpretation, modification or amendment to existing debate(s).

You will be required to base your interpretation and analysis on the thorough examination of all of your chosen sources, whether primary or secondary.

The dissertation is a substantive piece of work in the discipline of History. The dissertation title and outline aims are agreed between you and your dissertation supervisor at the start of the research project.

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12	Indicative reading
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You are expected to conduct your own primary and library research under the guidance of your supervisor. Some recommended texts on the nature and writing of History are:

Berger, S et al *Writing History, Theory and Practice* (2003)

Black, Jeremy *Using History* (2005)

Cannadine, David (ed) *What is History now?* (2004)

Carr, E H, *What is History?* (2002 edn)

Evans, Richard *In Defence of History* (2001)

Iggers, Georg, *Historiography in the Twentieth Century: From Scientific Objectivity to the Postmodern Challenge* (2005)

Jenkins, Keith *Rethinking History* (2003)

Tosh, John *The Pursuit of History* (2002)

13	Learning outcomes
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Learning outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of the module

Knowledge and understanding. After studying this module you should be able to:

- Demonstrate, synthesise, and apply advanced knowledge of the chosen area of study through the completion of a substantial piece of original work in a particular area of interest within the discipline of History
- demonstrate detailed knowledge of key debates; develop critical and differentiated responses to these debates, and articulate these responses clearly;
- show a critical understanding of the overall significance and relevance of the chosen research area;
- demonstrate a critical understanding of relevant historical theories;

Skills, qualities and attributes. After studying this module you should be able to:

- formulate and execute a plan of research activities to achieve realistic objectives
- critically review your work and reflect on your learning experience as a student of History;
- use information technology to gather information, analyse and present data and to prepare and present written material
- access, and manage effectively, a range of learning and research resources;

- demonstrate research skills in a particular area of history through planning and executing a research project, including: formulating questions, selecting subject material; selecting and using appropriate research methods; analysing and evaluating literature and research data;
- demonstrate a high level of independent learning and self-development;
- present a substantive written dissertation in a lucid, logical and coherent manner.

14 **Teaching and learning**

Range of modes of direct contact

This indicates the range of direct contact teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. lectures, seminars

Introductory lectures. Supervision/tutorial sessions. Email and telephone communication.

The student is expected to take most of the initiative in identifying when they need supervisory contact and arrange it with the supervisor. There is an expectation that students should see their supervisor on a fortnightly basis on average. This will vary depending on the stage of the project.

Total contact hours: 10

Range of other learning methods

This indicates the range of other teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. directed reading, research

Student-centred approach involving library and electronic searches, and as appropriate to the project, use of local and/or national archive repositories; VLP – delivery (on site/distance), communication, guidance and support. You will be expected to read a wide range of monographs, journal articles, and general texts, as well as appropriate primary source materials.

Summative and formative assessment of progress report.

Reviews of draft chapters by supervisor.

Total non-contact hours: 390

15 **Assessment methods**

This indicates the type and weighting of assessment elements in the module

<u>Element number</u>	<u>Weighting</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>
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1	100%	Coursework	Dissertation
<p>Diagnostic/formative assessment</p> <p>This indicates if there are any assessments that do not contribute directly to the final module mark</p>			
<p>Your progress is formally documented via an initial project registration, a review of the dissertation's aims and objectives, and a later progress review. You will take responsibility for completing progress forms (which should be submitted to your supervisor during tutorials) regarding the progress, timeliness, next meeting with tutor, and aims and objectives for the next meeting. The supervisor and student both sign this so that is quite clear to both what is to be achieved. Further diagnostic information is transmitted verbally to the student during regular meetings.</p>			
<p>Further information on assessment</p> <p>This section provides further information on the module's assessment where appropriate</p> <p>Students will submit a 12,000-15,000 word dissertation</p>			

Document management										
16	Module Title:	Dissertation								
17	Module Code:	HIST32005								
18	Subject (JACS) Code									
19	Cost Centre	139								
20	School:	AAH								
21	Academic Team	HLI								
22	Campus	2 (Clifton)								
23	Other institutions providing teaching	<i>Please complete in box 23 a-d - if applicable</i>								
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23c Other private organisation in the UK - Percentage not taught by										

NTU

23d Any other Non-UK organisation -
Percentage not taught by NTU

24 Date this version was formally
approved by SASQC/DAG: