

Nottingham Trent University

Module Specification

	Basic module information	
1	Module Title:	DISSERTATION (BA MEDIA)
2	Module Code:	MCLT34005
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 2008

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	MCLT20112	Theorising Media and Culture

9 Courses containing the module

<u>Level</u>	<u>Core/Option</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
		FT	MCLT101	BA (H) Media
		PT	MCLT102	BA (H) Media

10 Overview and aims

This module enables you to undertake a sustained, single piece of independently researched work on a topic of your choice, under the supervision of a tutor. It allows you to build on, consolidate and develop interests and work from the subject as a whole. The principal aims of the module are as follows:

- To enable you to undertake a sustained, single piece of independently researched work.
- To enable you to develop work on a particular topic or theme in some depth.
- To encourage you to think critically and confidently in theoretical terms.
- To further develop your analytical and critical thinking.
- To encourage you to further develop their capacity for *independent* thought, critical reflexivity and the ability to draw effectively on ideas and theories

introduced throughout the BA Media programme.

- To reflect critically on the research process

11 Module content

In a series of tutorials you will negotiate your topic with your supervisor. In most cases tutorials will be one-to-one, though group tutorials may also be used. The approach, sources and appropriate skills will be identified, developed and refined. Learning will be supported through a series of dissertation workshops introducing key aspects of doing research including the dissertation process, doing analysis and library research skills.

12 Indicative reading

Ann Gray, *Research Practice for Cultural Studies*, Sage, 2002
M. Pickering et al, *Research Methods for Cultural Studies*, Edinburgh University Press, 2008
D. Deacon et al, *Researching Communications*, Arnold, 2007
M. Messenger Davies, *Practical research Methods for Media and Cultural Studies*, University of Georgia Press, 2006
I. Bertrand, *Media Research Methods*, Palgrave, 2005
N.S. Walliman, *Your Undergraduate Dissertation*, Sage, 2004
K.E. Rudestam, *Surviving Your Dissertation*, Sage, 2007
Warburton, N., *Thinking from A – Z* (London: Routledge, 1996).
Williams, Alma (1984) *Projects: skills and strategies* London: Pitman.
Richie, Jane and Lewis, Jane (2003) *Qualitative Research Practice*, London: Sage.
Bechhofer, F. (2000) *Principles of Research design in the Social Sciences*, London: Routledge.
Denzin, N. (2000) *Handbook of Qualitative Research*, London: Sage.
Ezzy, Douglas (2002) *Qualitative Analysis*, London: Routledge.

13 Learning outcomes

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 the ability to design, carry out and write up a research project in an appropriately scholarly form
- Show evidence of confidence in understanding and applying theoretical concepts
- Display an advanced understanding of some key ideas within the academic field
- Demonstrate a reflexive understanding of the research process

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

Show evidence of ability and confidence in the following areas, consolidated to an advanced level:

- The ability to formulate logical and coherent arguments.
- Advanced analytical skills and research capability which demonstrate understanding of the increasing complex resources and forms available.
- Effective communication skills which may be demonstrated through a range of forms appropriate to the dissertation you present.
- A grasp of the processes of discrimination and synthesis essential to successful interdisciplinary study.
- Resourcefulness, self-motivation and time-management
- The ability to use a learning journal to identify problems and reflect critically on the learning process

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

Programme of tutorial supervision. Interaction with tutor (and possibly other students) through online learning journal. Taught dissertation workshops focusing on key aspects of doing a dissertation.

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

Students carry out an extensive programme of reading combined with other forms of research as appropriate. The assessed blog encourages students to reflect on the learning and research process.

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>
1	20%	Online Learning Journal	Online Learning Journal (blog plus final statement)
2	80%	Dissertation	A Dissertation of 10-12,000 words.

Diagnostic/formative assessment

This indicates if there are any assessments that do not contribute directly to the final module mark

Further information on assessment

This section provides further information on the module's assessment where appropriate

- 1) The online learning journal comprises of a) a blog with approx 6 entries of approx 300 words each submitted at regular intervals during terms 1 and 2) and b) a final evaluative statement reflecting critically on the research process of approx 500-750 words submitted at the end of the module.
- 2) Dissertation: submitted at the end of the module.

Document management

16	Module Title:	Dissertation (BA Media)	
17	Module Code:	MCLT34005	
18	Subject (JACS) Code		
19	Cost Centre		
20	School:		
21	Academic Team		
22	Campus		
23	Other institutions providing teaching	<i>Please complete in box 23 a-d - if applicable</i>	
		Institution	%
23a	Other UK Higher Education or Further Education Institution- Please name Percentage not taught by NTU		
23b	Other public organisation in the UK- Percentage not taught by NTU		
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: