**MODULE SPECIFICATION**

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| **Name of Module** | | MA Thesis | | | | | |
| **Parent School/Dept** | | **Political Science and International Relations** | | | | | |
| **Programme(s) where module is offered** | | MA Diplomacy | | | | | |
| **Status** (core, option, free choice) | | Core | | **Pre-Requisite Modules or Qualifications** | | All coursework completed | |
| **FHEQ Level** |  | **Unit Value** | 30 ECTS | **Module Code** | **PD505** | **Module coordinator** | Maja Savic-Bojanic/Sabina Cehajic-Clancy |
| **Term taught** | | Autumn and Spring | | **Applicable From** | | 2013 | |
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| **Educational Aims of the Module** | | | | | | | |
| This dissertation module stretches across two semesters (1 year). Its main goal is to enable students to use and extand the knowledge and skills acquired during their study and apply theories and concepts learned as part of the program. The primary focus is on providing students with the necessary research methodology knowledge and practical skills to support the above aim. The course also aims at developing an awarness of effective learnig strategies at a higher level (postgraduate) as to be able to reach their full potential. Students will be provided with an opportunity to conduct live research in a topic of interest to them. | | | | | | | |
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| **Module Outline/Syllabus** | | | | | | | |
| * Not applicable | | | | | | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Student Engagement Hours** | | | | | | Type (Lectures, Tutorials, Seminars, Guided/Independent Learning Time, Other) | **Number per term** (e.g. 10) | **Duration of each** (e.g. two hours) | **Total Time** | | | Lectures | N/A | N/A | N/A | | | Seminars | N/A | N/A | N/A | | | Consultations and supervisory meetings: | 5 - 15 | 2 hours | 10 – 30 hours | | | Independent working hours: |  |  | 720 – 740 hours | | | Total Guided/Independent Learning Hours | | | | **750** | | Total Contact Hours: | | | | **0** | | | | | | | | |
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| **Assessment Method Summary** | | | | | | | |
| **Type** | | **Number Required** | | **Duration / Length** | **Weighting** | **Timing/Submission Deadline** | |
| Final Thesis (Written) | | 1 | | 20.000 words | 80% | Throughout the academic year | |
| Oral defence | | 1 | | 30-45 minutes | 20% | As scheduled | |

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| **Module Outcomes** | | | |
| **Intended Learning Outcomes:**  At the end of the Course, students should be able to:   1. Acquire knowledge on various research methods. 2. Demonstrate critical analysis of research methods. 3. Acquire knowledge and skills on how to conduct literature review and use proper referencing style. 4. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and critical understanding of a chosen project area. 5. Develop coherent arguments based on research evidence leading to logical conclusions. | | → | **Teaching and Learning Strategy:**   1. Lectures/presentations (ILO 1-5); 2. Class-based discussions (ILO 1-5); 3. Meetings and discussions with supervisor(s) (ILO 1-5). |
| → | **Assessment Strategy**   1. Written Dissertation 80% (15,000 – 20,000 words): ILO:1-5 2. Thesis Defence (oral): 20%: ILO: 1,2,4,5 |
| **Practical Skills**   1. Ability to conduct advanced research; 2. Ability to use various research methods in order to explore un-researched areas; 3. Ability to work independently. | | → | **Teaching and Learning Strategy:**   1. Lectures   (PS: 1-3);   1. In-class discussions (PS: 1-3); 2. Meetings and feedback from the supervisor(s) (PS: 1-3). |
| → | **Assessment Strategy**   1. Written Dissertation 80% (15,000 – 20,000 words): ILO:1-5 2. Thesis Defence (oral): 20%: ILO: 1,2,4,5 |
| **Transferable Skills**   1. Write clearly and present their arguments in a structured and focused manner; 2. Engage constructively in argument-based discussions; 3. Critically review published literature; 4. Time management and independent learning skills. | | → | **Teaching and Learning Strategy:**   * 1. Lectures/presentations (TS: 1-4);   2. Class-based discussions (TS: 2);   3. Meetings and discussions with supervisor(s) (1-4). |
| → | **Assessment Strategy**   1. Written Dissertation 80% (15,000 – 20,000 words): TS:1-4; 2. Thesis Defence (oral): 20%: TS:1-4 |
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| **Key Texts and/or other learning materials** | | | |
| Bell J. (2005). Doing Your Research Project. Open University Press.  Berg B. L. (2007). Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences. Pearson International Edition.  Burnett, J. (2009). Doing your social science dissertation. Sage Publications Ltd. Gerring, J. (2001). Social Science Methodology: A Criterial Framework. Cambridge University Press. Graziano, A. & Raulin M. L. (2007). Research Methods: A Process of Inquiry*.* Pearson Publishing. Hart, C. (1999). Doing a Literature Review: Releasing the Social Science Research Imagination. Sage Publications Ltd.Madsen, D. (1983). Successful Dissertations and Theses: A Guide to Graduate Student Research from Proposal to Completion. Jossey-Bass.Mann, T. (2005). The Oxford Guide to Library Research. Oxford University Press, USA; 3 edition. Manheim, J. B., Rich, R.C., Willant L. & Brians C. L. (2008). Empirical Political Analysis: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods*.* Pearson Longman Publishing.  Levin, P. (2005). Excellent dissertations*.* Maidenhead: Open University Press. | | | |
| **Please note:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the module and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module and programme can be found in the departmental or programme handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed annually by the University of Buckingham and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency. | | | |
| **Date of Production** | 28 August 2013 | | |
| **Date approved by School Learning and Teaching Committee** |  | | |
| **Date approved by School Board of Study** |  | | |
| **Date approved by University Learning and Teaching Committee** |  | | |
| **Date of Annual Review** |  | | |