



MAPU510: Publishing Masters Dissertation/Project

Module Leader: Liz Wells, Esther Dudley with Paul Honeywill
1 calendar year full-time and 2 calendar year, part-time

Module Description

The Masters dissertation/project represents the culmination of the 4 PgDip study and research modules. It provides the opportunity for individual research, with specialist tutorial support. Dissertations are high level and thorough defined investigations. Projects are in-depth, with clarity and attention to detail in the form of presentation and write-up.

Module Aims:

- to enable you through the process of proposing and planning a Masters dissertation/project
- to encourage ambition and innovation within your field of publishing research
- to develop a dialogue and working relationship with professional publishing to enable the dissertation/project to be successfully completed through access to primary sources
- to enable you to realise, complete and present your MA dissertation/project
- to implement independent learner skills

Assessed Learning Outcomes: At the end of the module you will be expected to:

- **Operational Contexts:** Organise and sustain a coherent well-researched examination of a defined and agreed publishing issue.
- **Cognitive Descriptors:** Have significantly enhanced knowledge, capacity for critical reflection, and the ability to express the results of your activity. With conclusions drawn from a well-structured dissertation or project.
- **Transferable Skills:** Work autonomously, to employ the skills of a publishing practitioner to a high level and the ability to sustain a critical argument which is well organised and appropriately illustrated.

Indicative Syllabus Content:

The publishing subject choice is based upon your own identified personal and professional needs, and is negotiated between the supervisor and yourself through the submission of a Masters proposal form. Seminars will inform how you prepare and plan for research. Tutorials will inform research methodology of each dissertation or project individually. Where appropriate for projects you will be able to request technical support.

Assessment Modes:

Dissertation of 15,000 to 20,000 words, three bound copies, illustrated and with accompanying materials where appropriate, or a project of 10,000 to 12,000 words with a substantial practical outcome equivalent to the requirement of the dissertation.

Assessment Criteria:

- Research and investigation evident in clarity of definition of research question(s) and communication of ideas and findings
- Original element(s) of the project made apparent
- Understanding of relevant historical, critical and cultural contexts
- Critical evaluation of findings
- Independence of analytic thought
- Organisation, preparation and time-management
- Clarity and sophistication of presentation

MAPU510 Schedule

11 November	Wednesday 12.00 MA briefing <i>Liz Wells</i>
2 December	Wednesday 12.00 Tutorials begin to develop research proposals <i>Liz Wells</i>
13 Jan - 3 Feb	Wednesday 12.00 Seminars and workshops on research methods and techniques <i>Esther Dudley</i>
10 February	Wednesday 12.00 Initial research proposal form submitted to <i>Esther Dudley</i>
24 February	Wednesday 12.00 Formal MA research proposal form submitted to Faculty office
3 March	Wednesday 12.00 Proposal approved or returned for modification/rewriting during this week <i>Esther Dudley</i>
10 March	Wednesday 12.00 Resubmission of failed proposals <i>Esther Dudley</i>
17 - 31 March	Wednesday 12.00 Tutorials to review the structure and plans <i>Esther Dudley</i>
26 April onwards	Wednesday 12.00 Tutorials <i>Liz Wells and Esther Dudley</i>
Last Friday September 2009	12.00 Submission of MA dissertation/project full-time , mark verification meeting November 2008
Last Friday September 2011	12.00 Submission of MA dissertation/project part-time , mark verification meeting November 2011

Hand-in to student counter on Floor 1 RL Building by noon

Submission Procedures

Please hand your group reports and your individual critical evaluation in via the student counter, Faculty office, following the procedures outlined below.

You must submit your coursework via the Faculty of Arts student counter in Room 109, Roland Levinsky Building. All formal assessments **must** be submitted before the deadline time and date. **You must bring your University Card with you when submitting coursework** as this has to be scanned as part of the coursework submission process.

Coursework can be submitted at any time ahead of the deadline although at busy times, scanning priority will be given to students with an impending deadline. Student counter opening hours are 9.00am to 3.00pm, Mondays – Fridays (except public holidays).

Please note that the University enforces a penalty of zero percent for work submitted after the published deadline unless late submission has been authorised by a valid claim of extenuating circumstances. Delays caused by queues, traffic or late-running public transport will not normally be considered as valid extenuating circumstances. A zero mark may result in you failing a module which; can significantly affect your prospects of progressing or achieving your award. You are therefore encouraged to give careful consideration to your time management and to try to submit your coursework well in advance of the deadline.

You must ensure your coursework is fastened together and includes a completed cover sheet PRIOR to handing your work in at the student counter. This is to keep queue waiting time to a minimum.

If you have any questions regarding regulatory matters or coursework policy, please see the student handbook on the portal or contact the programmes office.

Recommended Texts and Sources:

General:

- Allison, B. 1997 *The Student's Guide to Preparing Dissertations and Theses*. London: Kogan Page.
- Bell, J. 1999 *Doing your Research Project: A guide for first time researchers in education and social science*. 3rd Edition. Buckingham: Open University Press.
- Benn, R., Douglas-Dunbar, A. 1994 *Home Alone: A guide to independent study*. Exeter: University of Exeter.
- Berry, R. 1994 *The Research Project : How to write it*. 3rd Edition. London: Routledge.
- Cryer, P. 1997 *The Research Student's Guide to Success*. Buckingham: Open University Press.
- Chambers, E., Northedge, A. 1997 *The Arts: Good study guide*. Milton Keynes: OUP
- Gash, S. 1989 *Effective Literature Searching for Research*. 2nd Edition. Aldershot: Gower.
- Gibaldi, J. 1999 *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 5th Edition. New York: The Modern Language Association of America.
- Greenfield, T. (ed.), 1996 *Research Methods*. London: Arnold.
- Locke, Lawrence F. et al. 1998 *Reading and Understanding Research*. London: Sage.
- Madsen, D. 1991 *Successful Dissertation and Theses: A guide to graduate student research from proposal to completion*, Jossey-Bass
- Peters, R. 1997 *Getting What you Came For: The smart student's guide to earning a Master's or Ph.D.*, Noonday Press
- Rudestam, K., Newton, R. 2001 *Surviving your Dissertation: A comprehensive guide to content and process*, Sage
- University of Central England. Birmingham Institute of Art and Design. *Six research guides*. The Research Training Initiative. 1996.
- Woodward, Jeannette A. 1997 *Writing Research Papers*. Lincolnwood, Ill: NTC.

On research through practice:

- Gray, C., Malins, J. 1993 *Research Procedures/Methodology for Artists and Designers*, European Postgraduate Art and Design Group
- Seago, A. 1996 *New Methodologies in Art and Design Research: The Object as Discourse* RCA Research Papers