

Course Title	Capstone Project: Research Dissertation
Course Code	VIS4302
Recommended Study Year	4
No. of Credits	6
Mode of Tuition	Individual Consultations
Class Contact Hours	weekly consultation
Category	Required course to choose among VIS4302 Capstone Project: Research Dissertation, VIS4303 Capstone Project: Creative Project and VIS4304 Capstone Project: Curatorial Project (for students from the 2020-21 intake)
Discipline	-
Prerequisite(s)	NIL
Co-requisite(s)	NIL
Exclusion(s)	NIL
Exemption Requirement(s)	NIL

Brief Course Description

Year 4 students of Visual Studies major will work individually to undertake a Research Dissertation:

Approach	No. of Credits	Minimum cGPA	Project Size	Pre-requisites
Research Dissertation	3 x 2 (terms) = 6	2.8 or above in the end of 1st term of year 3	1 student	Nil

Aims

To explore in-depth relevant topics of personal interest, and to further develop the skills necessary for writing a substantial research dissertation.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the Capstone Project: Research Dissertation, students will be able to:

1. Identify a suitable topic for a research dissertation.
2. Apply standard research, writing, and presentation skills in the execution of a research project.
3. Review existing work on the topic in a manner that is fair and critical.
4. Justify that the project in its executed form is worthwhile.

Indicative Content

Varies with the topic of the project. The topic should be fixed in accordance with the guidelines below.

Teaching Method

Independent study, supplemented with biweekly consultations with a supervisor. To facilitate the matching of project supervision, Year 3 students will be asked to submit a brief project proposal. They need to provide project details, such as the topic, three choices of preferred supervisors in order of priority and the courses that have been taken to fulfill the pre-requisites of respective project approach. The result of project supervision will be announced by mid-June.

Research Dissertation

In the beginning of Term 1, Year 4 students will meet their supervisors from the Department of Digital Arts and Creative Industries to finalize their project topic. Students are expected to complete their final year project in Term 2, while their supervisors will oversee and assess the development, progress and outcome of the research project.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4
Research dissertation (approx. 6,000-8,000 words in English)	x	x	x	x

Assessment

70% Final research dissertation.

30% Continuous assessment: project proposal.

Required/Essential Readings

Varies with the topic of the project. To be determined in consultation with the supervisor.

Recommended/Supplementary Readings

Gibaldi, J., & Modern Language Association of America. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (8th ed.). New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2016.

The Chicago Manual of Style (17th ed.) Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2017. Available at https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html?_ga=2.42389095.395402768.1585893013-1504355538.1585893013

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.