

Lingnan University
Department of Visual Studies

Course Title	: Directed Research Project
Course Code	: VIS4301
Recommended Study Year	: 4th year
No. of Credits	: 6
Mode of Tuition	: Individual consultations
Class Contact Hours Category in Major Programme	: 1 hour per week
Prerequisite(s)	: CGPA of 3.0
Co-requisite(s)	: N/A
Exclusion(s)	: N/A
Exemption Requirement(s)	: N/A

Brief Course Description

The Directed Research Project will consist of between 8,000-10,000 English words written under supervision. The paper will be assessed on the scope, cogency and clarity of its argument, on its use of scholarly apparatus, and where applicable, on its originality. Students will meet regularly with the supervisors and a record will be kept of the meetings between supervisors and students.

In some instances students will be allowed to undertake practical “studio” work as part of their Directed Research Project. If practical work is to be a component of the project, the written component will be between 6,000 and 8,000 words instead of between 8,000 and 10,000 words. The student will define the practical component in consultation with the supervisor, who will assess both the written and practical components of the project.

Aims

To offer an opportunity to more ambitious students to undertake a research project of their own interest.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the Directed Research Project, students will have the ability:

- 1) to interpret properly an academic text (book, article) about the visual arts and/or the aesthetic appreciation of the natural or built environment
- 2) to evaluate the arguments and claims put forward in an academic text about the visual arts and/or the aesthetic appreciation of the natural or built environment
- 3) to write in academic English, following accepted conventions for referencing
- 4) to structure and organize a longer research essay

If the project involves studio work, then, in addition, students will have the ability:

- 5) to plan, execute and complete an artistic project that demonstrates practice-based research on the themes, issues and/or debates on which the writing component of their Direct Research Project is focused

- 6) to articulate the relationship between the artistic project and those themes, issues and/or debates as a component of the above-described research essay.

Indicative Content

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

Submission Deadline	Guidelines for the Directed Research Project, Visual Studies
1/6	<p>Students wishing to pursue a Directed Research Project should submit a 500 words (double spaced) application to the Visual Studies Main Office by June 1st of their third year. The application should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the student's CGPA • the topic the student proposes to work on • the name of the preferred supervisor • and a brief statement outlining how the student expects to approach the research topic in question. <p>Applications will be considered by the Department's Directed Research Project Committee, and students will be informed of the results of their applications no later than July 1st.</p>
15/11	<p>1.Submission of a longer proposal (about 1500-2000 words excluding bibliography) with the anticipated structure of the thesis and a brief bibliography 2. Complete the library research workshop</p>
30/4	Submission of the final draft (8,000-10,000 words)

The student's progress will be monitored regularly and reviewed after one term (in the examinations period). If the student's progress is not satisfactory, viz. unable to have an anticipated grade of B- or above, at this stage, the supervisor has the option to discontinue the Directed Research Project and possibly to award either 3 credits with a grade of C+ or below or no credits on the basis on the student's written work on the dissertation at that point. The decision of termination will be based on the quality and timely completion of the proposal.

Teaching Method

Individual consultations.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Students' progress towards the learning outcomes outlined above will be measured by:

- 1) continuous weekly discussions with the student
- 2) evaluating the student's drafts of certain sections, submitted at regular intervals
- 3) (if applicable) evaluating the student's artwork at different stages
- 4) evaluating the final version of the project.

Assessment

The student's progress is monitored regularly and the final version of the project is evaluated and graded.

Final Paper/ Artwork	70%
Continuous Assessment	30%

Required Readings

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

Supplementary Readings

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

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/>.

* Numbers of hours are subject to adjustment for individual courses.

Department of Visual Studies
Directed Research Project
Submission Form

Name of Student: _____ Student I/D: _____ CGPA: _____

Project Title : _____

Brief Description

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Reference List of key texts and relevant scholarly publications

Student's Signature

Supervisor's Signature

(Name: _____)

(Name: _____)

Date:

Date:

Supporting Academic Staff's Signature (*if applicable*)

(Name: _____)

Date: