

Lingnan University
Department of Visual Studies

Course Title	: Directed Research Project
Course Code	: VIS4301
Recommended Study Year	: 4th year
No. of Credits/Term	: 6
Mode of Tuition	: Individual consultations
Class Contact Hours	: 1 hour per week
Category in Major Programme	: Elective
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.

	Excellent (A)	Good (B)	Satisfactory (C)	Marginal Pass (D)	Fail (F)
(1) Assessment Categories	Excellent understanding of and response to the subject, demonstrates a very high general level of cognizance of, awareness of and insight into the subject	Good understanding of and response to the subject, demonstrates a high general level of cognizance of, awareness of, and insight into the subject	Satisfactory understanding of and response to the subject, demonstrates an adequate general level of cognizance of, awareness of, and insight into the subject	Attempts in understanding of and response to the subject, demonstrates a limited and only rudimentary level of cognizance of, awareness of, and insight into the subject	Poor understanding of and response to the subject, demonstrates a markedly inadequate and substandard general level of cognizance of, awareness of, and insight into the subject
(2) Context and aesthetic form/language or artifacts	Excellent level of understanding of the relationship between context and aesthetic form / Language or artifacts, demonstrates a very high level of understanding of how aesthetic form/language or artifacts is influenced by and or portrays context, including historical, social, political, intellectual, personal or other forms	Good level of understanding of the relationship between context and aesthetic form or artifacts, demonstrates a very high level of understanding of how aesthetic form/language or artifacts is influenced by and or portrays context, including historical, social, political, intellectual, personal or other forms	Satisfactory level of understanding of the relationship between context and aesthetic form or artifacts, demonstrates an adequate level of understanding of how aesthetic form/language or artifacts is influenced by and or portrays context, including historical, social, political, intellectual, personal or other forms	Attempts in understanding of the relationship between context and aesthetic form or artifacts, demonstrates a limited and only rudimentary level of understanding of how aesthetic form/language or artifacts is influenced by and or portrays context, including historical, social, political, intellectual, personal	Poor level of understanding of the relationship between context and aesthetic form or artifacts, demonstrates a markedly inadequate and substandard level of understanding of how aesthetic form/language or artifacts is influenced by and or portrays context, including historical, social, political,
(3) Aesthetic cognizance	Excellent level of cognizance of aesthetic categories, demonstrates a very high level of knowledge, explication or portrayal of aesthetic categories, including those of representation, expression, composition, design, structure, texture, style, pattern; and also including aspects of the arts such as	Good level of cognizance of aesthetic categories, demonstrates a high level of knowledge, explication or portrayal of aesthetic categories, including those of representation, expression, composition, design, structure, texture, style, pattern; and also including aspects of the arts such as sound, image, colour, etc	Satisfactory level of cognizance of aesthetic categories, demonstrates an adequate level of knowledge, explication or portrayal of aesthetic categories, including those of representation, expression, composition, design, structure, texture, style, pattern; and also including aspects of the arts such as	Attempts in cognizance of aesthetic categories, demonstrates a limited and only rudimentary level of knowledge, explication or portrayal of aesthetic categories, including those of representation, expression, composition, design, structure, texture, style, pattern; and also including aspects of the arts such as	Poor level of cognizance of aesthetic categories, demonstrates a markedly inadequate and substandard level of knowledge, explication or portrayal of aesthetic categories, including those of representation, expression, composition, design, structure, texture, style, pattern; and also including aspects of the arts such as
(4) Creativity	Excellent level of creativity, demonstrates a very high level of artistry, innovation, originality, expressiveness or vision	Good level of creativity, demonstrates a high level of artistry, innovation, originality, expressiveness or vision	Satisfactory level of creativity, demonstrates an adequate level of artistry, innovation, originality, expressiveness or vision	Attempts in creativity, demonstrates a limited and only rudimentary level of artistry, innovation, originality, expressiveness or vision	Poor level of creativity, demonstrates a markedly inadequate and substandard level of artistry, innovation, originality, expressiveness or vision
(5) Analytical ability	Excellent level of analytical ability, demonstrates a very high level of conceptual understanding and ability to make sophisticated, coherent and warranted conceptual distinctions	Good level of analytical ability, demonstrates a high level of conceptual understanding, and ability to make sophisticated, coherent and warranted conceptual distinctions	Satisfactory level of analytical ability, demonstrates an adequate level of conceptual understanding, and ability to make sophisticated, coherent and warranted conceptual distinctions	Attempts in exercising analytical ability, demonstrates a limited and only rudimentary level of conceptual understanding, and ability to make sophisticated, coherent and warranted conceptual distinctions.	Poor level of analytical ability, demonstrates a markedly inadequate and substandard level of conceptual understanding, and ability to make sophisticated, coherent and warranted conceptual distinctions
(6) Organization and coherence of the paper	Excellent level of organisation and coherence, demonstrates a very high level of organisation and coherence of sentence, paragraph, section and total paper structure	Good level of organisation and coherence, demonstrates a high level of organisation and coherence of sentence, paragraph, section and total paper structure	Satisfactory level of organisation and coherence, demonstrates an adequate level of organisation and coherence of sentence, paragraph, section and total paper structure	Attempts in organisation and coherence, demonstrates a limited and only rudimentary level of organisation and coherence of sentence, paragraph, section and total paper structure	Poor level of organisation and coherence, demonstrates a markedly inadequate and substandard level of organisation and coherence of sentence, paragraph, section and total paper structure

(7) Research effort and quality	Excellent level of research activity and quality of activity, demonstrates a very high level of engagement with a wide range of relevant research resources, and aptitude for making creative and/or rational and sophisticated thinking in locating, addressing or applying relevant	Good level of research activity and quality of activity, demonstrates a high level of engagement with a wide range of relevant research resources, and aptitude for making creative and/or rational and sophisticated thinking in locating, addressing or applying relevant information and	Satisfactory level of research activity and quality of activity, demonstrates an adequate level of engagement with a wide range of relevant research resources, and aptitude for making creative and/or rational and sophisticated thinking in locating, addressing or applying relevant	Attempts in research activity and quality of activity, demonstrates a limited and only rudimentary level of engagement with a wide range of relevant research resources, and aptitude for making creative and/or rational and sophisticated thinking in locating, addressing or applying	Poor level of research activity and quality of activity, demonstrates a markedly inadequate and substandard level of engagement with a wide range of relevant research resources, and aptitude for making creative and/or rational and sophisticated thinking in locating, addressing or
(8) Bibliography	Excellent level of compilation of the bibliography, demonstrates a very high level of correspondence to proper academic convention and style regarding the appropriate setting out and ordering of terms, titles, names,	Good level of compilation of the bibliography, demonstrates a high level of correspondence to proper academic convention and style regarding the appropriate setting out and ordering of terms, titles, names,	Satisfactory level of compilation of the bibliography, demonstrates an adequate level of correspondence to proper academic convention and style regarding the appropriate setting out and ordering of terms, titles, names,	Attempts in compilation of the bibliography, demonstrates a limited and only rudimentary level of correspondence to proper academic convention and style regarding the appropriate setting out and ordering	Poor level of compilation of the bibliography, demonstrates a markedly inadequate and substandard level of correspondence to proper academic convention and style regarding the appropriate setting out
(9) Language and diction	Excellent level of use of language and diction, demonstrates a very high level of the choice and use of words and phrases, vocabulary, fluency, terminology, idiom, style, or	Good level of use of language and diction, demonstrates a high level of the choice and use of words and phrases, vocabulary, fluency, terminology, idiom, style, or	Satisfactory level of use of language and diction, demonstrates an adequate level of the choice and use of words and phrases, vocabulary, fluency, terminology, idiom, style, or	Attempts in the use of language and diction, demonstrates a limited and only rudimentary level of the choice and use of words and phrases, vocabulary, fluency, terminology,	Poor level of use of language and diction, demonstrates a markedly inadequate and substandard level of the choice and use of words and phrases, vocabulary, fluency,
(10) Grammar	Excellent level of grammar, demonstrates a very high level of the understanding and use of the rules of language, including the relations between words, syntax, sentence construction, and the parts of speech	Good level of grammar, demonstrates a high level of the understanding and use of the rules of language, including the relations between words, syntax, sentence construction, and the parts of speech	Satisfactory level of grammar, demonstrates an adequate level of the understanding and use of the rules of language, including the relations between words, syntax, sentence construction, and the parts of speech	Attempts in the use of grammar, demonstrates a limited and only rudimentary level of the understanding and use of the rules of language, including the relations between words, syntax, sentence	Poor level of grammar, demonstrates a markedly inadequate and substandard level of the understanding and use of the rules of language, including the relations between words, syntax, sentence
(11) Characterization and/or description	Excellent level of characterization and/or description, demonstrates a very high level of apposite delineation, portrayal, depiction, categorization, narration, commentary, illustration,	Good level of characterization and/or description, demonstrates a high level of apposite delineation, portrayal, depiction, categorization, narration, commentary, illustration, representation or rendition	Satisfactory level of characterization and/or description, demonstrates an adequate level of apposite delineation, portrayal, depiction, categorization, narration, commentary, illustration,	Attempts in characterization and/or description, demonstrates a limited and only rudimentary level of apposite delineation, portrayal, depiction, categorization, narration, commentary, illustration,	Poor level of characterization and/or description, demonstrates a markedly inadequate and substandard level of apposite delineation, portrayal, depiction, categorization, narration, commentary, illustration,

Department of Visual Studies
Directed Research Project
Submission Form

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

Project Title : _____

Brief Description

--

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: