

Course Title	: SENIOR HISTORY DIRECTED RESEARCH PROJECT
Course Code	: HST4302
No. of Credits	: 6
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional and Individual Supervision
Class Contact Hours	: 6 (and Directed Research Supervision)
Category in Major Prog.	: Elective
Prerequisite(s)	: Only for year 4 History Majors
Co-requisite(s)	: None
Exclusion(s)	: None
Exemption Requirement(s)	: None

Course Description

A capstone course that will integrate advanced research methodology, current issues in historical scholarship, and research and writing of an in-depth directed research project.

This 6-credit Directed Research Project will cover both terms of the student's final year. Students are expected to undertake independent research and complete a substantial research paper under the guidance of advisers from the Department. The Project can be on any topic that is mutually agreed by the student and a supervisor, and approved by the Department Board. The word count will be 12,000 (or 12,000 Chinese characters). Because of the advanced level of skills and initiative required, a minimal Grade Point Average of 2.80 will normally be required for a student wishing to undertake this Project.

Aims

To provide students with a learning experience in which they integrate what they have learned about history, historical research, and the methodological skills that are common to a good degree in history. This will be accomplished through Directed Research Project.

Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate:

- 1) the ability to identify a significant topic of historical research and produce a substantial research paper;
- 2) the capacity to analyze and synthesize primary sources, and to place them within historical and historiographic contexts.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

The final DR Project.

LO	DR project
1	X
2	X

Indicative Content

Throughout the course of the two semesters, the content of the course will be tailor-made for the specific needs of the individual student, determined in large part by their topic and the type of research methodologies those topics require. Some of the possible areas to be covered will be:

- Familiarization with the methodologies use by one or more of the sub-disciplines of history: Social History, Cultural History, Economic History, Oral History, Environmental History, etc.
- Documentary editing
- Applications of various areas of public history
- Elementary statistical analysis for historians
- Computer-assisted research

Teaching Method

Students must submit drafts at various stages and undertake individual research, meeting their academic supervisors at regular intervals.

Assessment

Final Directed Research Project 100%
(See attached guidelines)

Required Readings

Varies according to topics chosen by the students.

General Guidelines

The Directed Research Project is a significant part of the degree for students who elect to take it, as it is a culminating event that integrates much of what students have learned as history majors.

The topic of the DR Project will be within the general area of the student's chosen area of study. Topic selection will take place in the late stages of Year 3 for all students in order to allow for adequate preparation of the course for the following year. An important part of any research project in arts is the definition and formulation of the topic. While the final approval of the Supervisor is required, and while advice may be sought by the student and given by the Supervisor, the main responsibility for topic selection remains with the student.

The normally scheduled interaction between each student and his or her Supervisor is expected to vary according to the student and the nature of the topic selected. This interaction is in the form of an individual or small group tutorial. In addition, supervisors monitor the progress of all project work as it is being performed on a regular basis. The assessment scheme is given below:

1. Each DR Project will be assessed by the Supervisor and a second reader.
2. The component parts involved in assessment of the DR Project in history are as follows:
 - i) Continuous Assessment
 - ii) Bibliographic Thoroughness
 - iii) Approach and Argument
 - iv) Communication Skills

3. Both Supervisor and the second reader will independently assess the final DR Project and will have an equal say on this part of the project. The final mark will be determined by consultation between the two examiners.
4. During Year 3 each student will be given a DR Project Handbook which will provide more detailed guidance for his/her project.

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/>.