

# HI3S2-30 Dissertation

**23/24**

**Department**

History

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Simon Peplow

**Credit value**

30

**Module duration**

22 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

Undertaking a dissertation will allow students to undertake a substantive piece of historical research and produce an article-length essay. It gives students the opportunity to work in a way similar to an academic historian: identifying a suitable research topic; mastering the relevant historiography; immersing themselves in a wide variety of primary sources, where appropriate; and being able to sustain a coherent and logical argument. As a final year module it will encourage students to put the training received in their earlier years of study to practical use.

### Module aims

A dissertation is compulsory for all History single honours students and an option for all joint degree students. The dissertation is weighted at 30 CATS and must be based either on a final year module that the student is enrolled on, a module taken in year 2, or a module taken during the Year Abroad (the latter with permission from the Dissertations Coordinator). The dissertation length is up to 9,000 words, not including footnotes or bibliography.

### Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

## Summer Term of Year 2

Week 4 Lecture: what is a dissertation; linking the dissertation to a third-year module; summer preparation

Weeks 4-10: Preliminary meeting with dissertation supervisor

## Autumn Term of Year 3

Week 1 Lecture: how to narrow down your subject and find a good research question

Week 2 Lecture: how to develop a secondary bibliography; how to engage with secondary literature

Week 3 Lecture: how to find and use primary sources; ethical considerations

Week 4 Lecture: planning; writing the dissertation; presentation

Week 5 Lecture: what can we learn from the experience of others; what makes a good dissertation

Weeks 1-5: Second meeting with supervisor: finding an area

Week 7 -10: Third meeting with supervisor: designing a proposal; locating sources; planning

Week 10: Submission of title and description to Department

## Spring Term of Year 3

Weeks 1-5: Fourth meeting with supervisor: discussion of progress on research and thinking

Weeks 7-10: Fifth meeting with supervisor: progress on research and thinking; guidance on oral presentation of work

Week 10: Presentation on dissertation

## Summer Term of Year 3

Weeks 1-2: Sixth meeting with supervisor: guidance on writing and final presentation of work

Week 2: Submission of dissertation

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Critically review and consolidate the secondary literature on their area of research.
- Act with minimal supervision and take responsibility to identify and design an original research project.
- Demonstrate an awareness of research ethics and personal responsibility and incorporate this into their practice where appropriate.
- Critically evaluate evidence from a range of primary sources to support their argument.
- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of their area of research to produce a coherently argued and professionally-written thesis.
- Effectively reflect on and communicate their research progress.

## Subject specific skills

See learning outcomes.

## Transferable skills

See learning outcomes.

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# Study

## Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	6 sessions of 1 hour (2%)
Tutorials	6 sessions of 1 hour (2%)
Private study	288 hours (96%)
Total	300 hours

## Private study description

History modules require students to undertake extensive independent research and reading to prepare for seminars and assessments. As a rough guide, students will be expected to read and prepare to comment on three substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 3 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 6-10 texts and writing and presenting the outcomes of this preparation in an essay, review, presentation or other related task.

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time
Presentation	10%	
9000 word dissertation	90%	

## Feedback on assessment

Feedback online from supervisor within 4 weeks of submission.

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## Availability

## Courses

This module is Core for:

- UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
  - Year 3 of V100 History
  - Year 3 of V100 History
- Year 3 of UHIA-V102 Undergraduate History (Renaissance and Modern History Stream)
- Year 4 of UHIA-V103 Undergraduate History (Renaissance and Modern History Stream) (with Year Abroad)
- Year 4 of UHIA-V101 Undergraduate History (with Year Abroad)
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM14 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- Year 4 of UHIA-VL16 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VL15 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with a term in Venice)

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- UHIA-V1V8 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
  - Year 3 of V1V8 History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
  - Year 4 of V1V8 History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V6 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V7 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)
- UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
  - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
  - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
  - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
- UHIA-VM14 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
  - Year 3 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
  - Year 4 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- UHIA-VL16 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
  - Year 3 of VL16 History and Sociology (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
  - Year 4 of VL16 History and Sociology (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 4 of UHIA-VL14 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad)

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V8 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V7 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V6 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad)

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V6 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad)
- UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
  - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
  - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
  - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 4 of UHIA-VL14 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad)