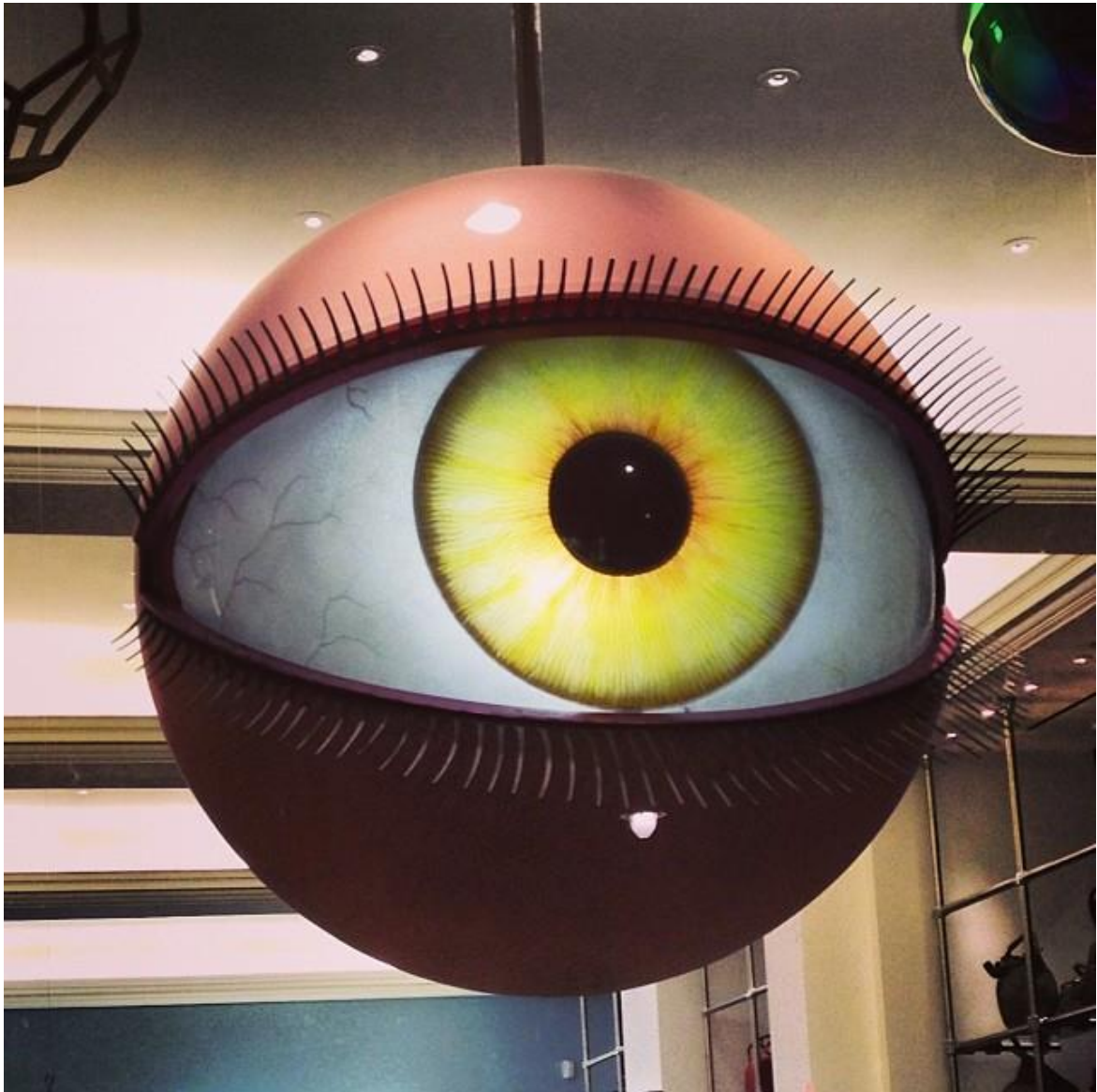


Dissertation (40 credits)

AHSK6002

2017-2018



Anthropology

University of Wales Trinity Saint David

MODULE CODE: AHSK6002
TITLE: The Dissertation
DATED: 01/09/2013

LEVEL: 6
CREDITS: 40

JACS CODE: V100; L600; V400

AIM(S)

- To enable the student to undertake an independent research project.
- To enable the students to identify an appropriate and meaningful research question and to develop appropriate methodological and theoretical approaches to answer this research question.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- identify a suitable topic and question for in-depth research;
- construct and manage a sizable body of raw data drawn from extensive research amongst source materials;
- critically evaluate that body of raw data, drawing interpretations and conclusions that are informed and rooted in the original research;
- embed those ideas and conclusions within a framework of established scholarly writing and theoretical explanation;
- write up the results of personal research in a clear, structured and extended format.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

- This is a substantial piece of independent personal research, based upon a topic of personal interest to the student and determined by the nature of the programme up to this point. The focus of study is identified by the student. The aim is for the student to identify a body of material to study, to develop an appropriate and meaningful research question, to develop appropriate methodological and theoretical approaches to answer this research question, and to situate their work within the wider academic literature of their chosen discipline. Students will also be required to submit a report of their research and an oral presentation as part of the process of writing their dissertation.

LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY

Lectures will introduce the students to the concepts, principles, and practices of the topics studied for the module. Case studies may be used to provide examples and will be used to develop further understanding of what has been learned.

Tutorials and seminars are used to support the discussion and critical evaluation of what has been learned, normally in a smaller group size than a lecture.

Guided independent study allows students to further their independent learning skills with appropriate support provided by the module tutor(s) (e.g. preparation for lectures and seminars, follow-up work, background reading, revision, completion of assessment tasks).

Allocation of teaching to deliver the module is:

Activity type	Hours	Percentage
Scheduled learning	20	5%
Independent learning	380	95%
Placement learning		
TOTAL	400	100%

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Component 1 – 5%

2000 word report.

Exemplar: the report will be on the process of researching and writing the dissertation.

Assessment Component 2 – 5%

15 minute oral presentation (10 mins present, 5 mins questions).

Exemplar: This presentation will be based on the subject matter researched.

Assessment Component 3 – 90%

10,000 word dissertation.

Assessment Summary

Activity type	Percentage
Written	
Coursework	95%
Practical	5%
TOTAL	100%

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD)

Does the module contribute to ESD?	Yes
If yes please provide brief details (no more than 100 words): This module reflects upon broadly defined issues of sustainability, with reference to the following themes: As applied anthropologists, students will choose dissertation topics directly related to human interactions and sustainability. They will also develop transferrable skills that can be applied in careers promoting sustainable development, such as needs identification, project management, analysis and evaluation.	

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Essential

Davies, A. C. 2008 *Reflexive Ethnography: a guide to researching selves and others* London, New York: Routledge

Burns, T. and Sinfield, S. 2003 *Essential Study Skills* (London: Sage

Chambers, E. and Cottrell, S. 2005 *Critical Thinking Skills. Developing Effective Analysis and Argument* Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan

What is a Dissertation?

The dissertation gives you the opportunity to follow up your own interests and to use your initiative in terms of what you wish to research, how you wish to tackle it and how it is to be presented. You will carry out an independent research study in your chosen discipline, though your supervisor will help to ensure that the your research idea is viable, that it meets the requirements for your discipline, that it is likely to be completed within the time limit and that it is likely to yield the results that you anticipate. The dissertation will result in a document of 10,000 words, which you may supplement with photographs, maps or other images, or other media files that you and your supervisor consider appropriate to your chosen topic.

All students must complete either a dissertation (AHSK6002) or an Independent Project (AHSK6003) in the final year of their degree. Joint Honours students will complete the dissertation in one of their chosen subjects. **Please be aware that if you intend to proceed to the Integrated Masters in your fourth year you MUST have taken the 40-credit dissertation.**

Guidelines on word count and submission

Word limit: 10,000 words.

10% over or under the word limit is acceptable, but please be aware that we are not obliged to continue reading after the word limit is exceeded. This means that you really are advised to make your point concisely and stick to the word limit, or see a potential drop in your mark.

The word limit does not include your table of contents, acknowledgements, abstract, reference list or appendices.

Everything else is included in your word count, including in-text references (Harvard or footnotes), and table or figure captions. Basically, your word count runs from Chapter 1 to the end of the final chapter.

Submission:

Please hand in TWO bound copies at the Faculty Office in the Canterbury Building, and **ALSO** submit through the Turnitin link on Moodle. Both hard copies and electronic copies must be IDENTICAL, and must both be submitted by the deadline.

Your first copy should be properly bound (this can be done at the print unit). Your second copy can be photocopied and stapled.

Getting Started - Choosing a Topic

Level 5 students must submit a title and basic proposal or indication of topic (100 words or so) by the deadline set in the Spring.

Following this you will be allocated a supervisor.

The co-ordinator for these disciplines is Luci Attala l.attala@uwtsd.ac.uk - remember she may not be your supervisor. Approach your supervisor first.

You need to ask yourself several questions concerning your project topic, such as:

- Do I want to do original field research, to rely on other people's material, or to combine both approaches?
- Will it sustain my interest?
- Is the data easily available, or might my sources dry up?
- If the project involves travel or other expenses, do I have sufficient resources, both of time and money?
- What are the methods I will need to use to gain access to information?
- What are the ethical implications of what I intend to research for my project?
- Is my timetable realistic in terms of gathering data and writing it up?
- If I am using multi-media do I have the skills and backup necessary?
- Am I familiar with the theoretical (academic) material relating to my topic?
- What else has been done in this area?
- Does the scope of the project need to be narrowed down or better focused?

You will no doubt think of many other relevant questions once you get started.

Very general topics should be avoided, as should those requiring a long period of data collection. Realistically, it will rarely be possible to spend more than seven or eight weeks (over the summer vacation) on the basic data collection, fieldwork, or library work.

Your Supervisor(s)

Once you have submitted your title and short summary, you will be allocated a supervisor. It is crucial that you talk to your supervisor on a regular basis while preparing your dissertation. **After initial contact has been made, it is then your responsibility to make regular appointments with your supervisor.**

Supervisors can read and comment upon outlines, draft chapters, and any other related work. However, they are not permitted to provide feedback on more than 20% of the text which will comprise the completed dissertation. That said, your supervisor is a resource like the library - use both effectively.

Dissertation Proposal and Ethical Considerations

Before you may begin to work on your dissertation, particularly if you plan to use fieldwork, you MUST submit and gain approval for a research project proposal. All students will need to fill out an ethical considerations form.

The ethics form is particularly relevant for any research involving living humans or human remains, but ALL students should complete the form. You may answer questions with 'not applicable' if appropriate, depending on your topic and discipline.

The research proposal which will accompany the ethics form gives a more detailed summary and background to your research plans. It enables the supervisor to assess and advise you on your chosen topic, approach and methodology. A typical proposal format includes the following:

1. Title Page: Title of dissertation, your name, one paragraph summary.
2. Research Aims or Questions. You should say something about why you want to do this particular project, what makes it a suitable topic to study, its relevance and any special considerations of a practical or ethical nature.
3. Literature review. You need to locate your project in terms of wider academic debates, particularly in your chosen discipline or subject area. You may find a gap in the literature which you consider needs filling, and which justifies your research. You may be taking a stand in opposition to some widely held views, or wish to try out someone's ideas in a different context. Remember that no work exists in a vacuum and you need to be aware of who else is working in your area of study and what has already been achieved. All works mentioned must be fully referenced.
4. A detailed account of the content and methodology of your project. Although it is understood in many disciplines that the methodology cannot be over-specified in advance: if this is the case you should discuss the way that you will approach your study initially, the sorts of methods that you anticipate using, and your strategy for developing the methodology over the course of your study. You should indicate some sort of time-scale for your project.
5. Some mention of expected outcomes and the means by which you intend to present your project. If you wish to include videos, audio tapes or other multi-media this should be explained and justified. You may wish to mention areas which would require further research (which could be pursued at Masters level, for instance).

All work must be immaculately presented with grammar, spelling and references checked. Please refer to the Referencing Handbook. Proposals should be **around 1000 words**.

4. Carrying out your research

Ideally, you should carry out the main body of your research during the summer vacation: data collection, development of methodologies and theoretical perspectives. This allows you to write up during the late summer and Term One of your final year. Leaving the writing up for Term Two - only a few weeks away from the deadline - is a recipe for disaster, since you will also have regular coursework to produce. **However, remember that you cannot begin carrying out your research until your supervisor has approved the proposal and ethical considerations form! This should be done in the spring, BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR THE SUMMER.**

While carrying out your research, you will often require help from people in other institutions, such as universities, libraries, museums, and so on. Make sure you have the necessary permission from these people to use (and perhaps reproduce) any material you wish to study and include in the dissertation. These people/institutions should be acknowledged in your dissertation.

It is essential that you maintain contact, wherever possible, with your supervisor or the dissertation co-ordinator (see above) throughout the summer vacation in case any serious problems arise. You should discuss with your supervisor before leaving for the summer whether there are any periods when they will be away or unavailable.

5. Presentation

How you present your work will depend on what is included in your dissertation, but the following notes give some general guidelines. You should consult your supervisor if in doubt.

Dissertation Files

If you are presenting a variety of media a project file might be suitable. This could be a clip file or even a loose leaf folder. Everything should have your name on it, and all written work should conform to the guidelines below.

Oral Presentation

You will be expected to give a 10 minute PowerPoint (or similar) presentation in the second Semester, with five minutes of question time. This will be assessed by two members of staff. As this is an assessed piece of work the presentation may be recorded (and might be referred to during the final examination process). Any handouts that you produce will be kept for the examination process.

The presentation should include the following:

- discussion of the material researched in your dissertation
- your research question and why this is important
- your data
- the methodological and/or theoretical approach that you are applied to this material
- your results; and how these diverge or otherwise from your anticipated results at the beginning of your research

Report on progress and process

You will produce a 2000 word report before Christmas. This will include a detailed outline of your dissertation and a short reflective discussion on the process of researching and writing the dissertation so far. Things you might consider for this report are: Have you narrowed your topic? Broadened it? What feedback have you been given, and how has it helped you to focus?

The Dissertation

The bulk of your project will be in the form of the Dissertation. This should be presented as professionally as possible, fully referenced, typed and bound. A typical piece of written work will contain the following:

Title Page

If you have more than one piece of work each should have a title page, set out as shown in the example below:

New Water in Kenya: shaping fluid futures

Luci Attala

**Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment
of a B.A. (Hons.) in Anthropology
University of Wales Trinity Saint David
April 2017**

Abstract

On a separate page you should include an abstract of your project which summarises, on no more than one side of A4, the contents of your project. If you have used a variety of media these can be mentioned in your abstract.

Acknowledgements

On a separate page you should give formal thanks to people who have helped you with your dissertation research – informants, supervisors, advisors, people from other institutions, anyone who loaned you material, helped with references, proof-read chapters, edited text, baby-sat, etc.

Table of contents

You must have a table of contents. This will be a list of your chapter headings and the pages on which they occur. You may also give sub-headings and their page numbers. If you have illustrations, these must be separately listed by figure/table/plate. Illustrations or tables should be listed separately. All appendices should be included.

Conventions for structure and layout differ from one discipline to another and you should look at examples of published work in your field to see what is possible, and what will best suit your material. You can include sub-headings in the text, and include these in the contents page if you wish.

Abstract	i
Acknowledgements	ii
Abbreviations	iii
List of illustrations	iv
List of maps	v
List of tables	vi
Introduction	1
Chapter One: Aims, Methodology and Literature Review	5
Chapter Two: Monastic settlement and castles	

Chapter Three: Settlement and environment	23
Chapter Four: Memory and memorialisation	35
Conclusion	62
Bibliography	70
Appendix One: Founders and patrons	75
Appendix Two: A Photographic Diary of Fieldwork in a London	

Main Text

Your work should be word processed and carefully edited. If you are not confident that your spelling and grammar are accurate ask a friend to read your final draft, as well as using a spelling checker. Work should be double spaced or 1.5 (not single), with a margin of at least one inch all around. Use a clear font such as Arial or Times New Roman and 12 point or equivalent print size (the point size of this document). Depending on your binding, you might like to leave a margin of 1.5 inches on the left hand side. Keep back-up copies on the Cloud or on another device, and keep hard copies from each stage in case you run into problems with your computer. You should also keep a final copy for yourself (just in case your submission goes astray). Either footnotes or endnotes are acceptable, depending on the conventions of your discipline, but not a combination of the two. Printing double sided saves paper, so please do so and save a tree!

Referencing your work

All authors referred to or cited in your work must be correctly and fully attributed. A reference list should contain all the authors mentioned in you text (**do not include** those you have read but not actually referred to). There are set conventions as to how to reference your work, as you will see from the academic books you read. It does not really matter which conventions you follow as long as you are **consistent**. You should consult the referencing handbook and follow the conventions adopted for referencing in your discipline.

Putting it all together

Prepare in plenty of time. This cannot be overstated. You will want to write and re-write, cut and paste, edit and re-edit, probably several times. Start writing your main text as soon as possible (e.g. literature reviews, historical survey, etc). You can always change bits and pieces later. Remember that 'last minute' editing and, in particular, printing, always takes longer than you envisage. Prepare and print the final version of your contents page last of all, since page numbers will change as you edit. Remember, you have to submit TWO copies.

How is the dissertation assessed?

- A 2000 word report which will include a detailed outline of your dissertation (which you will prepare for the seminar in November) and a short reflective discussion on the process of researching and writing the dissertation so far. Things you might consider for this report are: Have you narrowed your

topic? Broadened it? What feedback have you been given, and how has it helped you to focus?

- Due in Tuesday 22 November
 - (5% of your mark)
- Oral presentation of 10 minutes, with 5 minutes for questions
 - To take place in the week beginning 16 January 2017
 - (5% of your mark)
- A dissertation of 10,000 words
 - Due in 9 May
 - (90% of your mark)

The dissertation is assessed on both the quality of presentation and its academic merit:

(i) Quality of presentation

Considerable care and attention is required to ensure a high standard of presentation. Pay particular attention to: the proper integration of all references, maps, diagrams, tables, photographs, etc; the quality of maps and diagrams; pagination for cross-references; grammar and spelling; always proof-read for typing errors.

(ii) Originality of the work

Credit will be given for originality of thought and ideas. Where a dissertation relies heavily on a small number of earlier pieces of work, the extent to which this is justified within the overall context of the work is taken into account.

(iii) Background reading

The dissertation must demonstrate a full awareness of the relevant literature, and the objectives of the dissertation must be placed within the context of earlier studies.

(iv) Research design and methodology

The dissertation will be judged on the appropriateness of the research design and methodology, both of which must be fully explained in the text. If there are any problems, drawbacks or limitations encountered at a relatively early stage, ensure that you show an awareness of them and say precisely how they have affected your work, diverted your original aims, and so on. Unresolved issues, inconclusive areas of enquiry, etc. will generally not be penalised if full awareness and justification is made explicit in your text. That is, you should, where possible/appropriate, critically incorporate any highly problematic areas into your writing rather than allowing them to affect the successful completion of your research.

(v) Analysis, interpretation and conclusions

Assessment is made of the incisiveness of the analysis undertaken and the interpretations advanced. In the conclusion, the principal findings should be highlighted and examined in the context of previous studies. Where appropriate,

consideration should be given to ways in which the study might have been improved and/or could be further developed.

(vi) In summary:

A clearly focused topic with scope for sustained discussion over the length of the dissertation, a synthetic and theoretically informed discussion of the secondary literature with elements of original insight, and a well-developed, clearly rationalised methodology. Original data or engagement with primary sources and a reflective discussion relating your research to theories and secondary literature.

Feedback

Informal feedback on the dissertation may be obtained from your supervisor after the Examining Board has met in June, but we cannot return a mark until the dissertations have the External Examiners' Meeting. You may reclaim your dissertation one year after the Examining Board has met. Unclaimed dissertations are kept in the Departmental Office.

Some last words

If in any doubt, at any stage, ask your supervisor or the dissertation co-ordinator. If you have any problems it is best to get them sorted out in the early stages.

Talk to other students about their research, especially those who have completed a dissertation in previous years (either at Lampeter or elsewhere). In this way, you will be able to get an idea of how long things take, avoid pitfalls and get a feel for the whole project in general.

We all work in different ways and at different speeds. Don't worry if someone has finished their dissertation several weeks before you have had a chance to start writing up. The nature of their project will certainly be very different from yours, so there is absolutely no point in making comparisons at this level.

THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE WHOLE PROJECT IS THE CAREFUL ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT OF YOUR TIME. DO NOT LEAVE THINGS TO THE LAST MINUTE. IF YOU DO, THEN THE FINISHED PIECE OF WORK WILL BE SUB-STANDARD AND WILL COST YOU MARKS. THIS CANNOT BE STRESSED STRONGLY ENOUGH.

(Revised October 2017)