

Skills for Medievalists /
Past Peoples, Present Societies:
Research Methods and Skills
(HPMS7004, HPHI7015)

Week 1

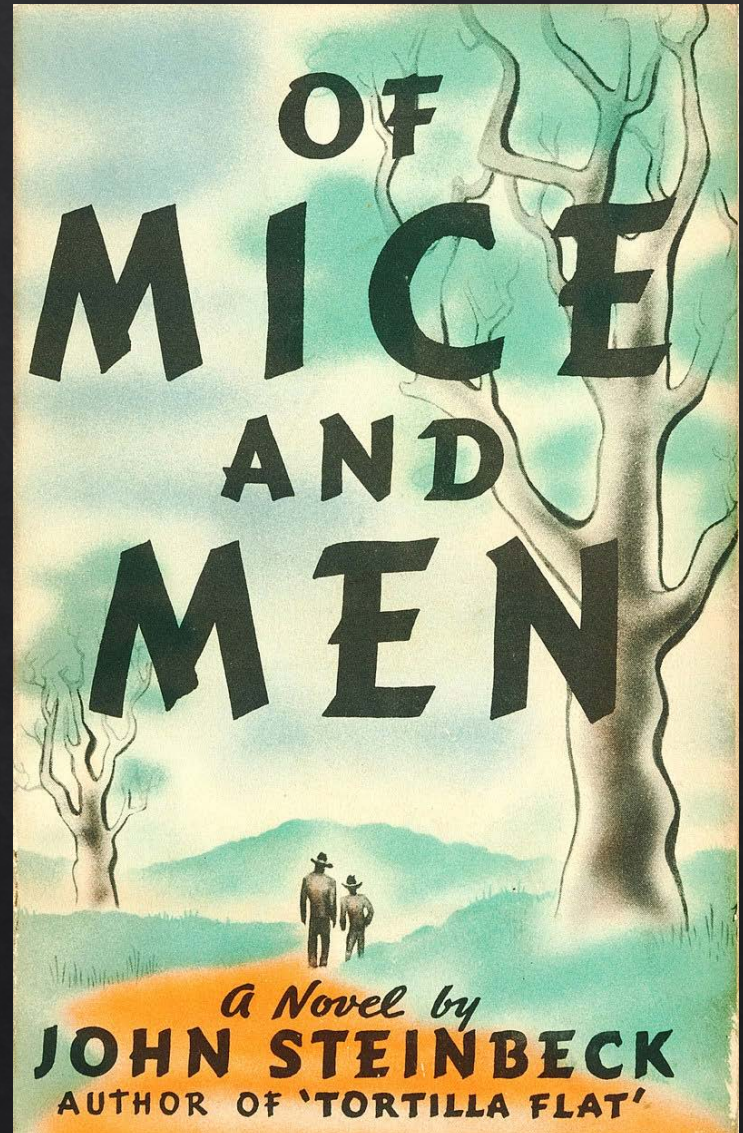
Welcome Session

Robert Burns



The best-laid schemes o' mice
an' men, Gang aft a-gley, And
leave us nought but grief and
pain, For promised joy.

AZ QUOTES





Welcome to your skills module!

Over the coming weeks you will develop a range of new skills that will equip you for further study and research at postgraduate level. You will be taught by a number of lecturers: Professor Janet Burton, Dr Alexander Scott, and Dr Harriett Webster.

We are in the process of updating materials and transferring them across from last year's Moodle site. Please be patient - we are currently very busy with the undergraduate induction activities, but will be with you (as it were!) very soon.

We look forward to meeting you all in October.

Best wishes

Harriett, Janet and Alex

 Announcements

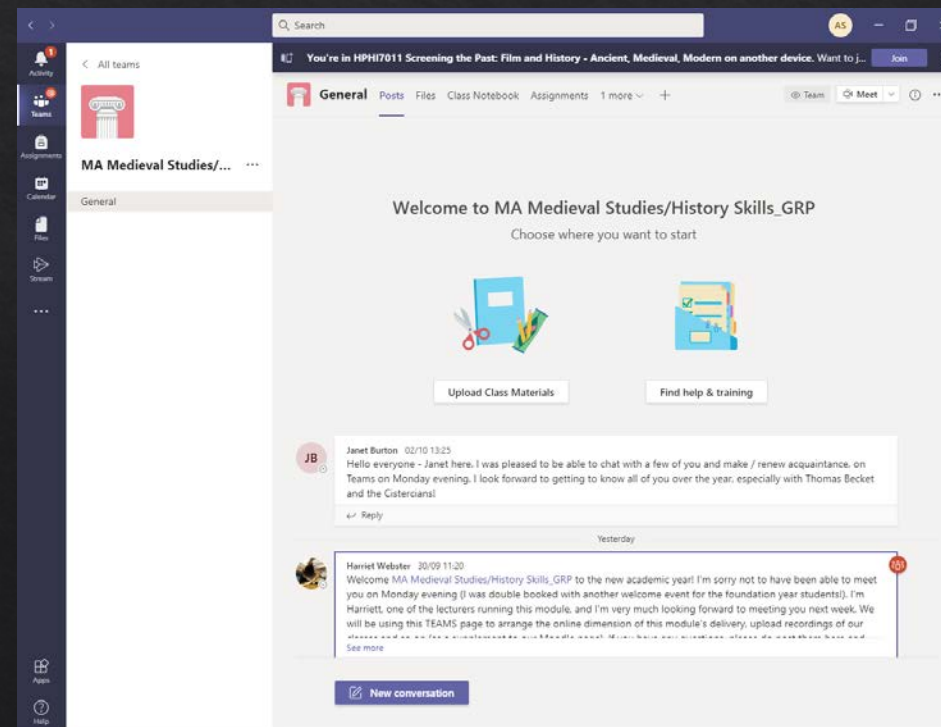
 Chat room

Please use this space to discuss your thoughts and ideas as they develop with your classmates.

 Welcome session	 Navigating archives	 Contextualising your research	 Dating materials
 Working with manuscripts	 Reading handwritten documents	 The book and beyond	 Visual sources
 Types of Record: secular records	 Types of Record: religious records	 Assessments	



Microsoft Teams



The screenshot shows the Microsoft Teams interface. On the left is a sidebar with navigation icons for Activity, Teams, Assignments, Calendar, Files, and Streams. The main window displays the 'MA Medieval Studies/History Skills_GRP' chat room. At the top, there's a search bar and a header with the team name. Below the header, there's a welcome message: 'Welcome to MA Medieval Studies/History Skills_GRP. Choose where you want to start.' This is followed by two buttons: 'Upload Class Materials' and 'Find help & training'. The chat history shows two messages: one from Janet Burton dated 02/10 13:25, and another from Harriett Webster dated 30/09 11:20. The Harriett Webster message is a longer welcome message mentioning a welcome event and the use of the TEAMS page for the module's delivery. At the bottom, there's a 'New conversation' button.

JOINING A TEAMS MEETING

- ◆ You should have an invite in two places:
 1. Via your university email address on Outlook
 2. On Teams itself

- ◆ You can access the meeting by clicking 'join' on the Outlook invite or via the events that appear in your Outlook and Teams calendars

Search

Today

↑

↓

October 2020

Month

Share

Print

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
28 Mon PCET re: Chi Canceled	29 Emergency HPFY3002 Meeting RE	30 Block 1 T HPFY300 Navigating Humanities	1 Level 5 Level 5 Chris disser	2 Level 5 MA Skills m	3	4
5 Level 5 histo (No subject HPHI	6 Urmi Chand Chloe	7 Level 5 MA Weekly Block 1				
12 HPHI L3 welfa	13 Hilary super Chloe	14 MA Skills HPFY300				
19 HPHI	20	21 Humanities MA Skills HPFY300				
26 HPHI	27	28 MA Skills HPFY300				

MA Weekly Skills Seminar

Wed 07/10/2020 10:00 - 13:00 Series

In class version - Khalifa 1

Join

Calendar

MA Medieval Studies/History Skills_GRP invited you.
Accepted 14, Didn't respond 1

Hi All, Just adding our weekly seminars to your calendars. You can either come along in person to class, or use the link generated here to join the sessions online. Best wis...

Harriett Webster_GREEN (1).pdf +2

Wed, 7 Oct

11°

in 35 min

10:00
3 hrs
Level 5 History tutorials
AS Alexander Scott
Social and Cultur... +7

10:00
3 hrs
MA Weekly Skills Seminar
In class version - Khalifa 1

13:00
1 hour
Block 1 Tutor Weekly Meeting
Errietta Bissa

14:00
1 hour
HPFY3001 Academic Surviv...
Arts Hall (and on Teams)

15:00
2 hrs
HPFY3011 - The Humanities
HPFY3011 - The Humanities_GRP

Search

AS

Meet now

New meeting

Today

October 2020

Working Week

05 Monday	06 Tuesday	07 Wednesday	08 Thursday	09 Friday
08:00				
09:00		Level 5 history tutorials Alexander Scott		
10:00				
11:00				
12:00				
13:00				
14:00				
15:00				
16:00				
17:00				

My calendar

MA Weekly Skills Seminar

7 Oct 2020 10:00 - 13:00

Join

Accepted

In class version - Khalifa 1

MA Medieval Studies/History Skills_GRP > General

Chat with participants

Harriett Webster
Organiser

05

06

07

08

09

Urmi Chanda
Angus Slater

Level 5 History tutorials
Alexander Scott

MA Weekly Skills Seminar
In class version - Khalifa 1
Harriet Webster

Block 1 Tutor Weekly Meeting
Errietta Bissa

HPFY3001 Academic Survival Skills
lecture
Arts Hall (and on Teams)
Alexander Scott

HPFY3011 - The Humanities
Quentin Drew

Chloe PCET chat
Alexander Scott

UCU
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Medwin Hughes

YOUR MA/MRes 2020/2021

PART 1: TAUGHT COMPONENTS

PART 2: DISSERTATION

- 15,000 words MA
- 30,000 words MRes (submission dates vary)

PART 1

- ◇ Semester 1: 01/10/20 - 22/01/21 (Teaching starts: 5th October 2020)
- ◇ Semester 2: 01/02/21 - 28/05/21 (Teaching starts: 1st February 2021)

Any thoughts on dissertations?

MA HISTORICAL STUDIES

Compulsory Modules			
Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Semester(s)
HPHI7015	Past Peoples, Present Societies: Research Methods and Skills	30	1
HPHI7012	MA Dissertation (History and Heritage)	60	Part ii

Optional Modules: select 0-90 credits			
Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Semester(s)
HPHI7011	Screening the Past: Film and History – Ancient, Medieval, Modern	30	1
HPCS7002	Celtic Arthur and the Mabinogion Tales	30	1
HPHI7009	History and Historians	30	1
HPCS7004	Women in the Middle Ages: Sources from the Celtic Regions	30	2
HPHI7008	Fact or Fiction? Literature and History	30	2
HPHE7003	Welsh History and Heritage	30	2
HPHI7010	Introduction to Digital Humanities	30	2
HPHE7004	Work Placement	30	2

MA MEDIEVAL STUDIES

- ◆ You can also request to take HPHI7009 History and Historians

Compulsory Modules			
Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Semester (s)
HPMS7004	Skills for medievalists	30	1
HPMS7001	MA Dissertation (Medieval Studies)	60	Part II

FT students and PT students should select 30-90 credits from this group.			
Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Semester (s)
HPMS7006	Thomas Becket	30	1
HPLA7013	Intensive Latin I	30	1
HPCS7002	Celtic Arthur and the Mabinogion tales	30	1
HPHI7011	Screening the Past: Film and History – Ancient, Medieval, Modern	30	1
HPCS7005	Celtic Sanctity, Spirituality and Hagiography	30	2
HPMS7005	The Cistercian World I: Cîteaux and the Growth of the Cistercian Order	30	2
HPHI7008	Fact or Fiction? Literature and History	30	2
HPCS7004	Women in the Middle Ages: Sources from the Celtic Regions	30	2
HPMS7003	Medieval Conference	30	2
HPHI7010	Introduction to Digital Humanities	30	2
HPLA7014	Intensive Latin II	30	2

MRes MEDIEVAL STUDIES

- ◆ You can also request to take HPHI7009 History and Historians

Compulsory			
Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Semester (s)
HPMS7004	Skills for medievalists	30	1
HPMS7002	MRes Dissertation (Medieval Studies)	120	Part ii
Select 30 credits from this group.			
Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Semester (s)
HPMS7006	Thomas Becket	30	1
HPLA7013	Intensive Latin I	30	1
HPCS7002	Celtic Arthur and the Mabinogion tales	30	1
HPHI7011	Screening the Past: Film and History – Ancient, Medieval, Modern	30	1
HPMS7005	The Cistercian World I: Cîteaux and the Growth of the Cistercian Order	30	2
HPHI7008	Fact or Fiction? Literature and History	30	2
HPCS7004	Women in the Middle Ages: Sources from the Celtic Regions	30	2
HPMS7003	Medieval Conference	30	2
HPHI7010	Introduction to Digital Humanities	30	2
HPLA7014	Intensive Latin II	30	2

SKILLS MODULE AIMS

- ◆ To equip students with suitable research knowledge, skills and competencies required to undertake and present independent historical research at postgraduate level
- ◆ To provide students with a range of methodological approaches for using the kind of medieval documentary and manuscript sources of relevance to the course, both for essays, commentaries and dissertations.

MODULE PRINCIPLES

- ◆ Students are provided with examples of a wide range of research methods and source types applicable to study of different chronological eras
- ◆ Designed to be challenging for students coming into MA/MRes from a BA in history/medieval studies, while also providing a 'primer' for students who are joining the course from other disciplines or after an absence from higher education

Schedule of sessions

- ◇ **Week 1:** Introduction (Harriett Webster & Alex Scott)
- ◇ **Week 2:** The Archive (AS)
- ◇ **Week 3:** Contextualising your research (AS)
- ◇ **Week 4:** Dating materials (HW)
- ◇ *Week 5: No in class teaching - assessments 1-3 due*
- ◇ **Week 6:** The Medieval Codex (HW)
- ◇ **Week 7:** Introduction to reading handwriting (HW)
- ◇ **Week 8:** The book and beyond (AS)
- ◇ **Week 9:** Visual sources (AS)
- ◇ **Week 10:** Secular records (AS)
- ◇ **Week 11:** Religious records (HW)

ASSESSMENTS



Assessment 1: Archival Exercise c.1000 words (15% module grade) due: 8 Nov 2020, 23.59



Assessment 2: Bibliographic Exercise c.1000 words (15% module grade) due: 8 Nov 2020, 23.59



Assessment 3: Dating/Database Exercise c.1000 words (15% module grade) due: 8 Nov 2020, 23.59



Assessment 4: Image Commentary c.2000 words (27.5% module grade) due: 18 Dec 2020, 23.59



Assessment 5: Transcription Exercise c.2000 words (27.5% module grade) due: 8 Jan 2021, 23.59

<https://moodle.uwtsd.ac.uk/mod/book/view.php?id=289530>

MODULE PRINCIPLES

- ◆ The best way to learn about research skills is *by doing research*
- ◆ Three-hour sessions designed to *supplement* your research activities
- ◆ A chance to try out skills and ideas that may be of use to in your dissertation and other modules

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS AND TASKS

- ◆ In addition to the assessments, there will be weekly activities to complete in advance of weekly sessions.
E.g. for next week

Activity

This module is all about equipping students with the skills needed for advanced-level historical research. It aims to help prepare students for their dissertation research and to give them greater insight into the techniques of academic research and writing. Over the course of the ten weeks, lecturers will share tips and guidance based on their personal experience and expertise.

For our first activity (to be completed before the Week 2 lecture), students are asked to 'deconstruct' a completed research project. They should read at least one of the three recent journal articles by the module lecturers and complete the exercise outlined below.



'Deconstructing' research projects exercise



'Deconstructing' research projects formative exercise submission



Burton, Transition and Transformation:



Scott, Missing Link between Science and Show Business



Webster, Dunstable Annals

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS AND TASKS

◇ *For Week 3*

Activity

Have a go at doing preparation work for your first assessment. Think about who/what you would like to write about in your archival exercise. Compile a list of three to five archival sources relating to your chosen topic. Practice the correct referencing style for your chosen sources, and provide a brief commentary about their content and utility.



Archival exercise practice - complete before week 3 lecture

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS AND TASKS

◇ *For Week 4*

Activity

Historical websites and databases are not just excellent resources for doing research; they're typically the product of major research projects by academic staff. Check out these examples featuring the work of our very own Janet Burton and Harriett Webster on [Monastic Wales](#) and Medieval Swansea, and complete the activities below.



Medieval Swansea: City Witness



Medieval Swansea: City Witness activity



Monastic Wales



Medieval Swansea database task submission



Monastic Wales activity



Monastic Wales database task submission

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS AND TASKS

◇ *For Week 4*

Activity

This activity concentrates on databases dedicated to different aspects of the history of transatlantic slavery and abolition. The research projects which led to the development of each of the websites below have in various ways nuanced historians' understandings of slavery. Have a look at the websites below and try to complete the exercises related to them.



Slave Voyages: Trans-Atlantic and Intra-American slave trade databases



Slave Voyages task: Thomas Phillips and the Hannibal (1693–1695)



Slave Voyages database task submission



Legacies of Slave Ownership databases



Legacies of Slave-Ownership database exercise



Legacies of Slave Ownership database task submission

NEXT WEEK: NAVIGATING ARCHIVES

- ◆ Complete the assigned reading and exercise
- ◆ Watch the videos by Janet Burton explaining some of the fundamentals of archives
- ◆ Start thinking about your first three pieces of coursework – especially the archival exercise