

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Research methods: Philosophies, Theories and Approaches to History
Status: Definitive
Code: **7101MHIST** (127246)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Nick White	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ7
Credit Value: 30
Total Delivered Hours: 33
Total Learning Hours: 300
Private Study: 267

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Seminar	33

Grading Basis: 50 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Portfolio	AS1	Commentaries on weekly, themed readings via a reading log (10 x 200 words)	20	
Report	AS3	Outline of proposed dissertation topic (2,000 words)	40	
Essay	AS2	Essay (4,000 words)	40	

Aims

*To critically assess and apply and apply theoretical, and philosophical concepts and methodological approaches in relation to a range of primary and secondary sources
To evaluate recent advances within the field and situate students' proposed work accordingly.*

To identify an appropriate area of research, map out appropriate methodologies, theoretical frameworks and resources and to modify an outline research project through discussion, reflection and feedback.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Evaluate complex theoretical and philosophical arguments
- 2 Critically analyse and apply appropriate research methodologies
- 3 Critically develop arguments and interpretations in an appropriate and scholarly manner.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Portfolio	1
Report	2
Essay	3

Outline Syllabus

The rationale for the course is to introduce students to the great philosophical and theoretical debates in the pursuit of history as well as methodological approaches to post-graduate research in the discipline. The first half of the course will focus on philosophies and theories of history and introduce students to theoretical concepts which inform and affect the practice of history. Notably, this will include the classical and orthodox debates on empiricism, relativism and Marxism and extends to modern theoretical approaches to history including post-colonial and post-modernist theory as well as recent developments in global history. The second half of the course will focus on types of historical enquiry and the methods employed by historians working in different disciplines within the ever broadening field of history. These will include oral history, quantitative history, gender history, visual history and memorialisation and diplomatic and political history. This will allow students to broadly situate their reading, research and writing within broad theoretical and methodological frameworks which inform the practice of history. Each week students will be allocated a text to read in preparation for the following week's seminar. The taught sessions will be then facilitated by tutors, but will be largely student-led through their informed readings of the allocated texts.

Learning Activities

Seminars

Notes

The knowledge and skills gained through the completion of this course will be immediately relevant and directly applicable to the study of other modules and assessments on this taught MA. Further, it will prove invaluable to students who seek to develop their studies through research-level degrees through an underpinning, theoretical framework for the development of research proposals.