Guidelines for the Humanities Project

Requirements

The Humanities Project is intended for those students who have a particular interest associated with one of the areas covered by the Science, Culture and Society (SCS) courses and have successfully completed a Level 5 course. The module consists of independent study, supervised by a nominated member of staff who will meet with the student on a regular basis to discuss progress. Where students have topics in common, students might meet in small group tutorials. The topic of the Humanities Project must be agreed with the supervisor and should be of sufficient scope and allow for appropriate depth of analysis for the student to meet the learning objectives. Prospective candidates must supply a proposal that details the scope, the research questions and the timetable that sets clear goals for monitoring progress. For creative subjects like music technology and creative writing, the essay may include an element of practice (e.g. a composition or a chapter) in which case there should be an adjustment in the word count expected for the analytical component of the module.

A considerable amount of self-study is required for the Humanities Project and students should be aware that the time commitment required of them is at least equal to, if not exceeding, the commitment required for a taught option (approximately 120 hours of study in total). The Humanities Project is worth 6 ECTSs.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the Humanities Project students will have:

- demonstrated systematic knowledge and critical understanding of their chosen topic;
- selected and used accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry and be aware of their advantages and limitations;
- synthesised, evaluated critically and challenged information, arguments and assumptions from a range of sources;
- recognised the potential uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge in the chosen subject area;
- communicated complex information, arguments and ideas effectively and appropriately to the subject, purpose and audience;
- understood the importance of context for the effective interpretation and analysis of information within a particular subject discipline;
- selected and used ICT tools to improve learning;
- as an independent learner planned, monitored and evaluated their own learning and sought ways to improve performance;
- engaged, as appropriate, with practical and professional skills and relevant ethical issues;
- recognised, recorded and communicated skills and knowledge to achieve personal and intellectual goals.
Registering for the Humanities Project option

Before they enrol, students should contact the Field Leader for SCS (Ms Giskin Day) who will discuss with a potential supervisor the suitability of the candidate. The candidate and supervisor should then formulate a one-page proposal outlining the scope of the essay, the research question(s) and a timetable that sets clear goals for monitoring the student’s progress. The proposal needs to be approved by the Field Leader for SCS, and – if the student is taking the option for credit – the student’s departmental personal tutor. **Proposals must be finalized before the end of September.** When these requirements have been satisfied, the student’s online enrolment will be confirmed. Any enrolments through the online system are provisional until this takes place and no new enrolments will be accepted after the end of September.

**Supervision**

The Humanities Project is largely self-study. It is up to the student and the supervisor to arrange meetings for feedback on the various stages of the essay and to check that good progress is being made. It is anticipated that contact will be mostly by e-mail but students and supervisors should meet face-to-face at least twice a term in the autumn and spring terms, more often if necessary, but not usually exceeding six meetings in total.

**Assessment**

To be tailored to the subject but as a general guideline:

- Analytical essay: 5,000–7,000 words (90%) **OR** composition / piece of creative writing (60%) with 3,000–5,000 words of analysis (30%)
- Performance: The mark for performance is awarded by the supervisor and counts 10%. It is awarded on the student’s interest and engagement with the project, the student’s understanding of the research area at the end of the project, the student’s ability to work with the supervisor in a professional and appropriate manner, the level of independent working the student achieved, and the overall effort of the student on the project. (10%)

The essay should be **5000 to 7000** words in length, not including the reference list. The latest deadline for submission is the **first week of the summer term** (exact date can be agreed between student and supervisor). A Blackboard portal will be available for submission. Essays should be in 1.5 spacing with wide margins. Pages should be numbered. It is imperative that students follow the guidelines for referencing given in the SCS Assessment Handbook.

**Marking**

The essay will be marked by the supervisor and an independent assessor. It will also be seen by an external examiner. Results will be released after the Centre for Languages, Culture & Communication exam board meeting (usually in June), whereupon the student can request feedback from the supervisor.
Note to students

The Humanities Project option is only granted to those students who have a demonstrable commitment to the subject, and a proven track record in completing coursework on time and to a high standard. If you register for the Humanities Project you are expected to see it through, regardless of whether you are registered for degree credit or extra credit. You are also expected to cooperate with your supervisor and take on board feedback given throughout the process. Humanities Project that are undertaken in haste and without due commitment stand little chance of passing. However, completing the Humanities Project option will significantly enhance your CV as it shows you are capable of important study and personal skills. If you do decide to pursue this option, we hope you will enjoy it, and the Centre for will undertake to support you to the best of our ability.

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