Independent Study (Literature Review) | POP77201

Year	1
ECTS Credits	10
Contact Hours	TBC (at least 3 meetings)
Pre-requisite	Nil
Semester	1
Module Leader & Lecturer	TBC
Contact Email	TBC

Module Outline

The Independent Study (Literature Review) is crucial for 1st year students for the development of their thesis proposals. Each first-year student will be assigned a supervisor for the Independent Study (Literature Review) at the beginning of the Michaelmas Term and will follow a programme designed on an individual basis to provide structured reading. At the start of the course, both the student and supervisor will agree a reading list and a schedule of informal meetings to review progress on these. At least three meetings should be scheduled.

The Literature Review paper in Michaelmas Term differs from the Independent Study (Research Proposal) in Hilary Term in that it is typically longer, focuses more on summarising existing research and identifying lacunae, and contains fewer precise details about the research design and the student's own potential contribution to the field than does the Research Proposal. The importance of the Literature Review lies in the fact that it serves as the basis for the Research Proposal in Hilary Term, which in turn is the basis for the 'Thesis Proposal', to be defended in September after the first year.

Assessment

The Independent Study (Literature Review) culminates in the student submitting a written paper of 5000 words by the end of the Michaelmas Term. This paper will be a thorough review of the scholarly literature that clearly identifies a research question, and identifies areas for future research. It should thoroughly explore a topic and its issues, mapping out the territory for the student's own thesis project. The Independent Study (Literature Review) itself is graded by the supervisor, on a pass/fail scale, on the basis of the detailed literature review of the student's research area submitted by the Independent Study (Literature Review) deadline.

Recommended Reading List

TBC