

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES**

**SCHOOL OF LANGAUGES AND CULTURES  
(ASIA/CHIN/FREN/GERM/ITAL/JAPA/SPAN)  
489 RESEARCH PROJECT  
30 POINTS**

**TRIMESTER 1 AND 2 2014**

Please read through this material very carefully in the first week of the course, and refer to it regularly.

**Trimester dates**

Trimester dates: 3 March to 16 November 2014

Teaching dates: 3 March to 17 October 2014

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Mid-year break: 3–13 July 2014

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 25 August to 7 September 2014

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds).

**Names and contact details**

Contact details of staff involved in this course are as follows:

**Course Coordinator**                      Professor Yiyang Wang  
Office: vZ701  
Phone: 463 56456  
Email: [yiyang.wang@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:yiyang.wang@vuw.ac.nz)

**Supervisors:**                              As determined by each Programme

**Administrators:**                          Nina Cuccurullo  
Office: vZ610  
Phone: 463 5293  
Email: [nina.cuccurullo@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:nina.cuccurullo@vuw.ac.nz)

Sarah Walton  
Office: vZ610  
Phone: 463 5318  
Email: [sarah.walton@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:sarah.walton@vuw.ac.nz)

School Office Hours: 9.00am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday

**Contact Person for Māori and Pasifika Students**

Dr Vanessa Frangville  
Office: vZ703  
Phone: 463 6463  
Email: [vanessa.frangville@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:vanessa.frangville@vuw.ac.nz)

**Contact Person for Students with Disabilities:**

Dr Margaret Sutherland  
Office: vZ615  
Phone: 463 5975  
Email: [margaret.sutherland@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:margaret.sutherland@vuw.ac.nz)

**School Website:** [www.victoria.ac.nz/slc](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/slc)

The Course Coordinator for 489 Research Project is Professor Yiyan Wang. She is available for student consultations at the times indicated on her office door or by appointment. Supervisors are assigned by each Programme and will arrange regular meetings with students.

**Class times and locations****Workshops**

489 Research Project includes a number of workshops/seminars designed to support students in developing advanced research skills and give them the opportunity to discuss their project with experienced researchers and with their peers. The workshops are held on Tuesdays from 1.10-2.00pm in KK204. On days when workshops are not held, this timeslot is available for 489 Research Project peer-support/writing meetings.

**Supervision**

Students will be assigned a supervisor for their research project by their Programmes and will work with this supervisor to develop, research and write the research essay. Ideally, students and supervisors should meet fortnightly throughout the year.

**Communication of additional information**

Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students either via supervisors, seminars, Blackboard, or email. If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set up a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

**Prescription**

A supervised research exercise. 100% internal assessment.

**Course content**

SLC (ASIA/CHIN/FREN/GERM/ITAL/JAPA/SPAN) 489 Research Project is a full year 30-point supervised research project for students in the Programmes of the School of Languages and Cultures. The main component of the course is the writing of the 489 research essay. This is supported through supervision meetings, the 489 research proposal, a brief written progress update, workshop attendance and an oral presentation of the research project.

This course gives students the opportunity to pursue an individual research project in the form of an extended essay of up to 10,000 words, with regular guidance and support from a supervisor within the School of Languages and Cultures. A research project is a mandatory part of an Honours degree in the School of Languages and Cultures. Students gain experience with high-level research, managing an independent project, presenting their work orally, and producing an extended piece of written work. Supervisors and workshops help students with research methods, essay structure and managing the project as a whole. Students wishing to enrol for the course should consult with academic staff to discuss their areas of interest and should ideally be in contact with their Programme regarding their research topic and supervision prior to the start of trimester 1.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. acquire advanced research and argumentation skills, be able to identify relevant research questions and answer these questions within appropriate methodological frameworks and using appropriate research;
2. develop their ability to present research findings in both verbal and written forms and to manage a long-term project;
3. enhance their critical thinking ability and communication skills;
4. improve their proficiency in assessing and analysing aspects of the societies and cultures studied.

## Teaching Format

The main component of the 489 is the 10,000-word research essay, but students are also expected to submit a research proposal and a brief written progress update, attend supervision meetings and workshops, and make an oral presentation to SLC staff and fellow students on their topic.

## Mandatory course requirements

Oral Presentation of research project in Week 9 or 10, Trimester 1;

Submit your essay on or by the specified date.

## Workload

The University Assessment Handbook has laid down guidelines as to the number of hours per week which students are expected to devote to a course in order to maintain satisfactory progress. The expected workload for a full year, 30-point course is 300 hours over the year, i.e. an average of 10 hours per week.

Although this course has only one item assessed, students should be aware of the tasks that require their attention throughout the two trimesters. These tasks include:

1. Research proposal
2. Oral presentation of research project
3. Statement on research progress to date
4. Full first draft of the paper
5. Submission of Research Essay

## Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1   Research Essay (no more than 10,000 words)	100%	1, 2, 3, 4	Friday 17 October

### Research Essay: Due Friday 17 October, 4pm. 100% of final grade.

The Research Essay is a substantial academic work of individual research on a clearly defined topic, which you will develop in consultation with your supervisor. Your essay must articulate a clear research question and seek to answer it in a structured and theoretically informed manner. It should demonstrate your familiarity with the major issues and scholarship on the topic and present an extended argument on that topic. It may be written in English or in the target language. Your research essay should be no more than 10,000 words long and should include:

- A research question and/or thesis statement

- A theoretical and methodological framework
- Demonstration of familiarity with relevant literature
- Research findings and analysis
- Proper referencing (footnotes or in-text citations)
- A bibliography
- Any other Programme-specific requirements as outlined by your supervisor

It is very important that you choose one of the standard methods of citation and bibliography and use it consistently throughout your essay. A clear and relatively brief handbook is the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers 7th Edition* (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2009). Another excellent choice is the *Chicago Manual of Style 16th Edition* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010). Please check with your supervisor as some Programmes have language-specific requirements.

### **Milestones**

Completion of the Research Essay is structured around a series of milestones. These are intended to ensure that you make steady progress on your project across both trimesters and to identify and support anyone struggling with any aspect of the research project. If you are having difficulty in meeting any of these deadlines, please discuss this with your supervisor as soon as possible. The milestones are as follows:

6. Research proposal (approximately 2-3 pages, including Title, Abstract, Outlines and a brief reference list of research project due **Thursday 17 April**)
7. Oral presentation of research project (10 mins + 5 mins for questions, held in **mid-May** in weeks 9 and 10 of trimester 1)
8. A brief (approximately 1 page) written progress update (due **Friday 1 August**)
9. Full first draft (due to supervisors **Friday 19 September**)
10. Submission of Research Essay (10,000 words, due **4pm Friday 17 October**)

Individual Programmes may also have other requirements. Please discuss this with your supervisor.

### **Formatting your Research Essay**

There is no School-wide template for formatting the Research Essay, but your essay must include a title page with your name, Programme and the name of your supervisor. Bear in mind that your essay is a long document that someone has to read, and that you want that person to look as favourably as possible on your work. With that in mind, remember that 489 Research Essays are easiest to read and mark when they have:

- A cover sheet with your name, your Programme name, the title of the essay and your supervisor's name
- A half page abstract
- A clear table of contents
- An easy-to-read font in 12 pt and double-spaced lines
- Clearly separated sections/chapters with subtitles
- Page numbers

Individual Programmes may also have other requirements, so be sure to consult with your supervisor about what these are. You may also like to consult the examples held in vZ610 for ideas about formatting the essay.

### **Assessment**

Your supervisor will assess your Research Essay, write a short report on it and suggest a grade. An external assessor from another university will then check the essay, report and grade. Marks are not final until this external feedback has been received and the grade confirmed at your Programme's Honours examination meeting.

### **Marking criteria**

In general, the following criteria are used in marking the 489 research essays:

- Clarity of the research question and/or thesis statement

- The extent to which the essay responds to the research question and achieves the goals set out
- The effectiveness of the methodology and theoretical framework employed
- Knowledge of relevant literature and demonstration of effective research
- Quality of analysis
- Quality of written expression (including the ability to follow the requirements of academic writing)

Individual Programmes may have further Programme-specific requirements. Please check with your supervisor.

### Submission and return of work

The research essay should be completed and handed in both electronically (via email) and in two hard copies (soft bound or stapled) to the SLC Honours Administrator, Sarah Walton (sarah.walton@vuw.ac.nz) no later than **4pm on Friday 17 October**. All assignments must include a cover sheet available from Blackboard or from the School of Languages and Cultures (SLC) Office.

Grades are entered in Student Records following the individual Programmes' Honours examination meetings, and are usually available to students shortly afterwards. You will be notified by the SLC Honours Administrator when essays and reports are available to be collected from the SLC Office.

### Extensions and penalties

Extensions can only be granted by the Associate Dean of FHSS, and only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute such circumstances.

### Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first week, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students. Class reps will attend a meeting with the Head of School to discuss how the course is going and to raise any concerns or suggestions that they may have. You can find out more information on Class Representatives on the VUWSA website: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)

### Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)

- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)

**Course Programme**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Workshop</b>	<b>Milestones/Due dates</b>
1	4 March	Introductory meeting: Research and methods	
2	11 March	Library resources for advanced research (databases, research tools etc.)	
3	18 March	Preparing your research proposal	<b>Begin drafting proposal</b>
4	25 March	Bibliographic programmes (Endnote, Zotero)	
5	9 April	Workshop on draft proposals	<b>Draft proposals to workshop</b>
6	1 April	Workshop on oral presentations	
7	14 April	<i>Peer-support/writing meeting</i>	<b>Proposals due to supervisors 17 April</b>

**EASTER/MID-TRIMESTER BREAK: 18 APRIL TO 4 MAY 2014**

8	6 May	Writing strategies workshop	
9	Week of 12 May	Oral presentations	<b>Oral Presentations (dates and times TBC)</b>
10	Week of 19 May	Oral presentations	<b>Oral Presentations (dates and times TBC)</b>
11	27 May	<i>Peer-support/writing meeting</i>	
12	3 June	<i>Peer-support/writing meeting</i>	

**MID-YEAR STUDY/EXAMINATION PERIOD AND BREAK: 7 JUNE – 13 JULY**

1	14 July	Progress update workshop	
2	21 July	<i>Peer-support/writing meeting</i>	
3	28 July	<i>Peer-support/writing meeting</i>	<b>Progress updates due 1 August</b>
4	4 August	<i>Peer-support/writing meeting</i>	
5	11 August	<i>Peer-support/writing meeting</i>	
6	18 August	<i>Peer-support/writing meeting</i>	

**MID-TRIMESTER BREAK: 23 AUGUST – 7 SEPTEMBER**

<b>7</b>	8 September	Editing, formatting, and troubleshooting workshop	
<b>8</b>	15 September	<i>Peer-support/writing meeting</i>	<b>Research Essay draft due to supervisors 19 Sept.</b>
<b>9</b>	22 September	<i>Peer-support/writing meeting</i>	
<b>10</b>	29 September	<i>Peer-support/writing meeting</i>	
<b>11</b>	6 October	<i>Peer-support/writing meeting</i>	
<b>12</b>	<b><u>FINAL VERSION OF RESEARCH ESSAY DUE TO SARAH WALTON IN vZ610 BY 4PM, FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER</u></b>		