COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department:	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
Programme:	MA in International Development
Level:	7
Course Title:	Extended Thesis Research
Course Code:	DEV 7550
Course Leader:	Dr Michael Keating
Student Engagement Hours:	**600[1]**
Independent / Guided Learning :	600
Semester:	Summer
Credits:	60 UK CATS credits
	30 ECTS credits
	12 US credits

Course Description:
For students working independently on their Masters thesis. An extended thesis of 15,000-20,000 words is offered as an alternative to the mandatory internship. The dissertation encourages students to study intensively a topic agreed with a supervisor, and so develop skills and experience which can be applied in work placements or further graduate work. The course is comprised of independent research and writing, overseen by a thesis supervisor, resulting in production of a 15,000-20,000 word thesis. Collaborative and supportive dialogue with the supervisor and fellow 'junior research colleagues' will involve advice on the research and writing process, suggestions for resources and research directions, and comments on draft chapters of the thesis.

Pre-requisites MA International Development students only

Aims and Objectives:
- For the supervisor to guide the student, as a junior research colleague, through the research, writing and production of an MA level thesis of 15,000-20,000 words

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[1] *Please see the credit hour policy for non-traditional courses. Range of independent hours must fall within the range of 45-60 hours per credit.*

- For the student to undertake independent/autonomous research on a topic which makes a valuable contribution to the field
- To develop skills and experience which can be applied in work placements or further graduate work

Programme Outcomes:
At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes.

A; B; C; D; E; F; G; H

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:
http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-schools/academic-registry/program-and-course-specifications.aspx

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:
- Demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding of key texts, thinkers, intellectual paradigms, themes and debates in a specific topic in International Development, and reflecting on their relationship to empirical evidence.
- Develop and utilise theory and methodology appropriate to substantive inquiry of an empirical subject area within International Development.
- Demonstrate a deep, systematic and innovative ability to adapt and apply knowledge in the discipline of International Development to a highly focused research question.
- Design and undertake a substantial investigation of a significant areas of theory and/or practice in International Development, using selected advanced methodological approaches.
- Engage with and evaluate complex, incomplete or contradictory evidence while critically reflecting on the different theoretical and methodological tools used.
- Demonstrate the ability to exercise initiative in organising and pursuing a supervised project, while accepting full accountability for outcomes.
- Demonstrate the ability to gather, organise and effectively communicate complex and abstract ideas and diverse information with regard to a complex and specialised thesis topic.
- Demonstrate the ability for innovative and autonomous learning, normative and ethical reflection, self-evaluation and engagement with disciplinary benchmarks.

Indicative Content:
- production of a 15-20,000 word thesis, suitably illustrated, evidencing:
- intensive autonomous study of a topic agreed with a supervisor

- primary research making a valuable contribution to the field
- a coherent argument
- appropriate, critical use of secondary sources
- footnotes and a bibliography complying with either Harvard or Chicago referencing system
- satisfactory presentation and scholarly apparatus

Assessment:
This course conforms to the Richmond University PG Dissertation Assessment Norms approved at Learning and Teaching Policy Committee found at:
http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-affairs/academic-standing.aspx.

Teaching Methodology:

AUTONOMOUS RESEARCH AND RESEARCH SUPERVISION
The Course will require independent research overseen by a thesis supervisor, tutorial opportunities including with specialist faculty for more specific academic guidance, including comments on draft materials, and faculty and peer review feedback at a thesis conference.

Bibliography:
- Bryman, A. (2012). *Social Research Methods*, 4th ed. (Oxford University Press, Oxford).
- Bell, J. (2010). *Doing Your Own Research Project: A Guide for First Time Researchers in Education and Social Sciences*, 5th ed. (London, Open University Press).
- Berg, B. (2011). *Qualitative Research Methods for Social Sciences*, 8th ed. (Pearson, London).
- Burnham, P., Gilland, K. et al. (2008). *Research Methods in Politics*, 2nd ed. (Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan).
- Landman, Todd (2008). *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An Introduction,* 3rd ed. (New York: Routledge)
- George, Alexander L. and Bennett, Andrew (2005). *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences.* (Cambridge: MIT Press).
- Davis, James (2005). *Terms of Inquiry: On the Theory and Practice of Political Science.* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press).

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

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Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Minor	Change in formatting in line with updated CSD template	School (Chair's Action), 26th January 2015	
Minor	Change 'IND' to 'DEV' in course code	School (Chair's Action), 26th January 2015	