Course Title	:	Directed Research Project*
Course Code	:	CUS4320*
Recommended Study Year*		4
No. of Credits/Term	:	3
Mode of Tuition	:	Individual Supervision
Class Contact Hours	:	Not applicable
Category in Major Prog.	:	Required for Area of Concentration / Programme Elective
Co-requisite(s)	:	None
Exclusion(s);	:	Only for Cultural Studies Majors
Brief Course Description	:	Students enrolled in the course will work independently under the guidance of a supervisor on a topic approved.
Aims	:	To train critical and research skills through an intensive study on a pertinent topic in any area of cultural studies.
Learning Outcomes	:	On completion of the course, students will be able to

achieve <u>research skills</u> such as to

1. define and formulate a researchable topic
2. organize a project within manageable scope and time frame
3. make and communicate cogent arguments through writing in academic style or through creative media project
4. make use of appropriate research methods and, if applicable, creative media genres/languages
5. be alert to various limitations and merits of each research method and creative media genre/language
6. conceive, execute and complete a research project independently.

Through the <u>learning process</u>, students will be expected to

7. appreciate and criticize other research and creative media projects
8. discuss and communicate with supervisor on matters related to the project
9. reflect and learn from one's research experience; meet challenges intellectually and creatively; make judgments and adjustments independently
10. be aware of the need to monitor one's own progress.

Indicative Content	:	Not applicable
Teaching Method	:	Regular supervision meeting between the supervisor and the student by appointment. Supervisor will give comments on the research proposal, interim written assignments, drafts and revisions at different stages of the research.
Measurement of Learning Outcomes	:	(1) All works including the research proposal, interim written assignments, scripts, drafts, revisions, rough cuts, final report and the completed creative media project will be measured by the <u>research skills</u> demonstrated; in particular,

    i. students are required to submit a formal research proposal soon after they have been assigned a supervisor. The proposal requires students to define and formulate the research topic clearly and lay out workable schedule of the project. The proposal should also include a description of research methods to be used and a brief bibliography.

    ii. students are required to demonstrate research progress on schedule to the supervisor either by writing drafts, fieldwork notes, transcripts of interviews, raw footage, rough cuts, etc.

    iii. supervisor will measure students' progress and give a mid-term tentative assessment and inform the students formally through the department's office;

    iv. at the end of the semester, students are required to submit the final report (together with the creative media project, if any) which measures how well students can complete their research. Assessment is based both on the quality of the research finding and the standard and style of the report writing (and the creative media project, if any).

(2) The expected learning outcomes of the <u>learning process</u> will also be measured. Throughout the supervision period, behaviors of students will be recorded and assessed by the supervisor. Punctuality of attending scheduled supervision sessions, of handing in written assignments and project drafts; responsiveness shown in communication with the supervisor; attitudes shown in facing queries or criticisms; and all other behaviors during the long process of supervision will measure the degree of success of the learning process. Supervisors will give feedback to students, regarding all aspects of the expected outcomes, whenever appropriate, either

*This course will cease to be offered to the 2019/2020 intake and after. However, they will continue to be offered to BACS students before the 2019-2020 intake.

through face-to-face contacts or emails.

Assessment : Continuous Assessment 100%
The supervisor has to complete a final report assessing both the level of research skills attained by the student and the degree of success of the learning process. In the final report, the supervisor is required also to assess the potential of the student to do research work in future.
The final grade is based on an integrated assessment of all the aspects mentioned above.

Written Report (required)

All students should follow the necessary steps of the research project, including submission of an application form, a formal research proposal, and a final report (appr. 8,000 words) by the deadlines to be specified each year.

Creative Media Project Component (optional)

If deemed appropriate by the supervisor and the student (for example, under Area of Concentration "Creativity and Media Studies" in the future 4-year programme, or in the case where the production project makes a significant contribution to the research and learning process), a student could opt to do a creative media project either in the form of a video or a series of posters to complement their written report.

Duration (video): 30-60 mins.
Quantity (poster): 3-6 posters

In this case, the length of the written report should be no less than 6,000 words.

Important Notes:
1. Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 2 hours of class contact and 7 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
2. Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is "the presentation of another person's work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or evenfootnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student's own work".Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
3. Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
4. To enhance students' understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course "Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness" is available on https://pla.ln.edu.hk/.