Module Title	Research Methods
Module Code	HY 510
NFQ Level	9
Credits	10
Module Co-Ordinator	Dr Matthew Stout
Module Description	This module imparts important transferrable, research and writing skills. It instructs students on devising, planning and executing independent research projects, as well as on presenting research findings. Good research questions spring from familiarity with the state of current debates in the field, new methodologies, and from realistic assessment of the available sources. Research Methods explores the writing of history from both theoretical and practical perspectives. Lectures on the practical dimension of research will concentrate on the identification and use of sources; embracing bibliographical skills; and building awareness of the main guides, catalogues and reference works routinely used by historians. Students will learn the theory, ethical considerations and practical uses (and compilation) of oral sources. The student will also be introduced to Geographical Information Systems (GIS), a powerful tool for interrogating spatial data, and will develop skills in mapping historical data with a spatial element. The course concludes with an introduction to basic statistical methods for historians and how spatial and statistical data can contribute to the post-graduate thesis. At the heart of this course stands a commitment to helping students develop the key transferrable skills needed to thrive at postgraduate level and beyond, for example, an ability to evaluate critically the significance and utility of a large body of material, including evidence from contemporary sources and wide ranging opinions; the ability to engage directly with questions and present independent opinions about them in arguments that are well-written, clearly expressed, coherently organised and effectively supported by relevant evidence. METHODS OF TEACHING: Lectures, labs, workshops and archival visits
Learning Outcomes	*On successful completion of this module the learner will be able to:* 1. Embark on independent research projects and produce a capable thesis. 2. Identify and interpret different forms of historical data. 3. Demonstrate familiarity with key archival collections in print and digital formats 4. Deploy GIS methodologies and distinguish between different types of spatial data. 5. Develop an understanding of basic statistical methods and how they can contribute to historical research. 6. Enhance presentation skills. 7. Demonstrate an awareness of oral history; theory, ethics and practice.

Assessment Breakdown			%
Continuous Assessment			100
End of Semester Formal Examination			0

Assessment	Type	% Contribution	Learning Outcomes
	An annotated research bibliography encompassing primary and secondary sources on an agreed subject, ideally that of the proposed thesis **OR** editing a document	40	1–3, 6
	Participation	10	1–6
	A project incorporating the Geographical Information Systems mapping exercise, statistical methods and other computer applications	50	3–6

Student Workload	Description	Total Hours
	Class lab time	8
	Lectures	16
	Archival visits	10
	Independent learning, assignment research and writing	216
	1ECTS ~ 25 hours of work	*250*

Key Readings	**Books/Book Chapters/Journal Articles/Online Resources**
	Doing history G. Kitson Clark, *The critical historian* (London, 2016). P.D.A. Harvey, *Editing historical records* (London, 2001). John Lukacs, *A student's guide to the study of history* (Wilmington, DL, 2000) Richard Marius and Melvin Page, *A short guide to writing about history* (7th ed., London, 2010). Michael Stanford, *A companion to the study of history* (Oxford, 1994).
	Guides to sources **Maynooth Research Guides for Irish Local History** Toby Barnard, *A guide to sources for the history of material culture in Ireland, 1500–2000* (Dublin, 2005). Margaret Crawford, *Counting the people* (Dublin, 2003). Terence Dooley, *The big houses and landed estates of Ireland* (Dublin, 2007). Patrick J. Duffy, *Exploring the history and heritage of Irish landscapes* (Dublin, 2007). Brian Griffin, *Sources for the study of crime in Ireland, 1801–1921* (Dublin, 2005). Brian Hanley, *A guide to Irish military heritage* (Dublin, 2004). Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh and Margaret Ó hÓgartaigh, *Business archival sources for the local historian* (Dublin, 2010). Susan M. Parkes, *A guide to sources for the history of Irish education, 1780–1922* (Dublin, 2010). Jacinta Prunty, *Maps and map-making in local history* (Dublin, 2004). Raymond Refaussé, *Church of Ireland records* (Dublin, 2006). C.J. Woods, *Travellers' accounts as source material for Irish historians* (Dublin, 2009). **Other guides** Seamus Helferty and Raymond Refaussé, *A directory of Irish archives* (5th ed. Dublin, 2011). William Nolan and A Simms (eds), *Irish towns: a guide to sources* (Dublin, 1998).
	GIS Ian Gregory and Richard Healy, 'Historical GIS: structuring, mapping and analysing geographies of the past' *Progress in Human Geography*, 31, no. 5 (Oct. 2007),

	pp 638–53 Alexander von Lünen, Charles Travis (eds), *History and GIS: epistemologies, considerations and reflections* (London, 2013).

| | **Quantitative methods and the historian**
C.H. Feinstein and Mark Thomas, *Making history count: a primer in quantitative methods for historians* (Cambridge, 2002).
Roderick Floud, *An introduction to quantitative methods for historians* (London, 2013).
David Freedman, *Statistics* (4th ed., New York, 2007).
Konrad H. Jarausch and Kenneth A. Hardy, *Quantitative methods for historians: a guide to research, data, and statistics* (Chapel Hill, NC, 1991). |

| | **Online Resources**
Archives Portal Europe: http://www.archivesportaleurope.net/
Bibliography of British and Irish History (available through DCU Library databases)
GeoHive - Ordnance Survey Ireland: http://www.geohive.ie/
Irish Newspapers online (available through DCU Library databases)
NLI Sources database: http://sources.nli.ie/ |

Indicative Content	**Lecture Title**	**Brief Description**
	Session 1: Writing history	Hour 1 Introduction to sources and archives Hour 2 Note taking, citation and bibliography
	Session 2: Historical sources: getting the most of the library	Hour 1 Catalogues, Google scholar, archival sources, BBIH Hour 2 Bibliographical sources, newspapers, endnote
	Session 3: Archival visits	Hour 1 Visit to the National Library Hour 2 Visit to the National Archives
	Session 4: Planning the MA thesis	Team-based session on how to identify viable thesis topics and embark on the research journey
	Session 5: The practical use of material and other online sources	Hour 1 Sources for urban history Hour 2 The 1911 census
	Session 6: The practical use of material and other online sources	Hour 1 Sources for Irish revolutionary history Hour 2 Sources for the history and geography of 18th/19th-century estates
	Session 7: Editing a document	Hour 1 Transcription Hour 2 Annotation and analysis
	Session 8: Oral history	Hour 1 Theory and ethical implications Hour 2 Practical applications
	Session 9: Introduction to spatial data	Hour 1 Data types and shapes, Raster and vector data, Lines, points and polygons Hour 2 National grids and reference systems
	Session 10: Spatial data sources for historical research and Basic Mapping	Hour 1 How to source historical data, Creating a database for use in a GIS Hour 1 Point data, Polygon, Geo-referencing of raster data
	Session 11: Quantitative methods	Hour 1 Introduction to statistical methods Hour 2 Computer methods and historical research
	Session 12: Data processing and presentation	Hour 1 Data manipulation and presentation Hour 2 Research methods integration of results and publication

Other programme(s) to which module will be delivered in 2017-2018	
Programme Code	**Programme Title**