SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2016-2017

HI 552L: Approaching the Archives

15 Credits : 8 Weeks

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Postgraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM

The course co-ordinator is Dr Jackson Armstrong (JA).
Tel: 272456. Email: mailto:j.armstrong@abdn.ac.uk
Room 206, History Department, Crombie Annexe, Meston Walk

Other members of the team are:
Mr Phil Astley (PA), City Archivist, Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire Archives
Ms Siobhán Convery (SC), Head of Special Collections
Mr Neil Curtis (NC), Head of Museums
Professor Michael Gelting (MG)
Mr Andrew Macgregor (AM), Deputy Archivist, Special Collections & Museums
Professor Thomas Weber (TW)
Mr Ruairaidh Wishart (RW), Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire Archives
**DISCIPLINE ADMINISTRATION:**
Mrs Barbara McGillivray/Mrs Gillian Brown  
50-52 College Bounds  
Room CBLG01  
01224 272199/272454  
history-ug@abdn.ac.uk

**TIMETABLE**
*Students can view their university timetable via Student Portal*

*Portal* [www.abdn.ac.uk/studentportal/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/studentportal/) and *MyTimetable*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**
This is a practical course in which the students will be asked to read and engage with the civic archive of Aberdeen and of Aberdeenshire. Attention will be paid to the content rather than the palaeography of the records. In addition to conducting practical exercises, students will study the city governance of the city of Aberdeen, of the holdings of other archives in the city, and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of archives and related collections.

**INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**
Students will be introduced to the reading and interpreting of archival records. By the end of the course, they will submit a paper based on original research in connection with the Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire Archives. Thus students can expect the following at the end of the course:

- to be able to read and interpret archival records
- to conduct research in original sources and to organise large quantities of information in a meaningful way
- to be able to contribute to the creation of knowledge in their chosen field

**LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME**
Week 1: (Tue 17 Jan) No class
Week 2: (Tue 24 Jan) No class

Week 3: (Tue 1 Feb): Introduction (JA)

Week 4: (Tue 7 Feb): Museums as archives (NC)

Week 5: (Tue 14 Feb): @OA HOUSE: Aberdeenshire archival collections (RW)

Week 6: (Tue 21 Feb): What is an archive? (AM)

Week 7: (Tue 28 Feb): Community archives (JA)

Week 8: (Tue 7 Mar): Private archives: collecting Hitler (Tom Weber)

Week 9: (Tue 14 Mar) No class

Week 10: (Tue 21 Mar): The politics of memory: archives old and new (MG)

Week 11: (Tue 28 Mar) No class

**READING LISTS WILL BE POSTED ON MYABERDEEN**

**ASSESSMENT**
One 5000 word essay: 100%

To view the CGS Descriptors please go to **MyAberdeen - Organisations - Divinity, History & Philosophy Student Information for Postgraduates.** The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.

**ESSAYS**
Essays should be approximately 5000 words long, excluding quotations and footnotes; students should note that they will be penalised for work which is either too long or unduly too short.

**LIST OF ESSAY TOPICS**
Essay topics to be agreed with course co-ordinator.

**ASSESSMENT DEADLINES**
Essays are due on Thursday, 23 March 2017 at 3pm.

**SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**
Please submit by the deadline ONE paper copy (cover sheet required) PLUS, ONE official electronic copy (no cover sheet required) as follows:
**Hard Copy:** One hard copy typed and double spaced, together with an Assessment cover sheet – this should have your ID number CLEARLY written on the cover sheet, with NO name and NO signature but EVERYTHING ELSE filled in – and should be delivered to the History Admin Office [Drop-off boxes located in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds].

**Electronic Copy:** One copy submitted through Turnitin via MyAberdeen. (For instructions please see [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/)) Students are asked to retain the Turnitin receipt so they are able to provide proof of submission at a later date if required.

In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student ID number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 Viking Essay 1.

When asked to enter a title for the assignment, please enter a title identical to the name of your saved assignment, i.e. 59999999 Viking Essay 1.

Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date

**Please note:** Failure to submit both an electronic copy to Turnitin and a hard copy to the school office, by the stated deadline, will result in a zero mark. N.B Turnitin doesn’t accept Mac documents in Pages. If using a Mac please go to File and export work as a Word document.