



UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

FTA541: ACADEMIC EXERCISE

Course Name (English)	ACADEMIC EXERCISE APPROVED
Course Code	FTA541
MQF Credit	6
Course Description	This course exposes undergraduate students to self-directed learning through which they prepare their final semester, supervised academic exercise. Students have a choice of three forms: a critical essay concerned with textual analysis; a research paper that entails field research and empirical data; or, a project-based research proposal. Students choose any topics of their interest so as to conduct a small enquiry or mini investigation that makes an original, intellectual or creative contribution to the field. The course covers the step-by-step approaches to academic research and writing from presenting arguments to conducting research. Its general aim is to expand the student's intellectual faculties and capability for learning and problem solving. The course also provides students with the opportunity to design their own study plan.
Transferable Skills	Critical Thinking, Discourse and Communication, Writing and Researching
Teaching Methodologies	Lectures, Supervision
CLO	<p>CLO1 Carefully organise their research process, from identifying a feasible topic, developing an argument, employing research method to analysing data.</p> <p>CLO2 Defend their research focus and findings during a research seminar presentation.</p> <p>CLO3 Produce their academic exercise in the form of either critical essay, research paper or project-based research proposal. by synthesising various forms of knowledge systematically and coherently.</p>
Pre-Requisite Courses	No course recommendations
Topics	
1. Introduction: Knowledge and Ways of Knowing 1.1) Defining Knowledge; 4 Ways of Knowing	
2. Research and Different Modes of Enquiry 2.1) Defining Research and its Categories; Modes of Enquiry: Between Arts/Humanities and Social Sciences	
3. Finding a Topic 3.1) Developing a Thesis/Argument; Three Objects of Study	
4. Structuring Your Research Paper 4.1) Introduction, Body and Conclusion; Headings and Subheadings	
5. Literature Review as/and Theoretical Framework 5.1) Gathering Past Literature; How to Write Literature Review; Understanding Theoretical Framework	
6. Research Design and Methods 6.1) Understanding Methodology: Qualitative vs Quantitative Approaches; Methods of Data Collection and Analysis	
7. Data Analysis and Discussion 7.1) Analysing and Discussing Data; Interpreting Texts	
8. Language and Writing Style 8.1) Scholarly Writing Style; Problems of Style	
9. Presentation and Referencing 9.1) Mechanics, Punctuation, and Style of Referencing	

10. Supervision / Workshop 10.1) N/A
11. Supervision / Workshop 11.1) N/A
12. Supervision / Workshop 12.1) N/A
13. Supervision / Workshop 13.1) N/A
14. Supervision / Workshop 14.1) N/A

Assessment Breakdown	%
Continuous Assessment	100.00%

Details of Continuous Assessment	Assessment Type	Assessment Description	% of Total Mark	CLO
	Assignment	Ongoing Progress. The supervisor will keep an eye on the scope of the exercise, the proposed development of the argument, timing and details of presentation. Students will be expected to work out and adhere to a research plan and to consult their supervisor regularly about the progress of the exercise. More importantly, students are required to submit the early draft of their work before the research seminar takes place.	30%	CLO1
	Final Project	Students have a choice of three forms: critical essay, research paper or project-based research proposal, any of which should be written about 25-30 double-spaced pages (in the format of an academic journal article).	40%	CLO3
	Seminar	Students are required to deliver a formal, oral presentation of their methodology and findings to examiners (among supervisors) and fellow students, which will take place at the end of semester, worth 30% of their final mark for this course. The Seminar Presentation should be about 15 minutes in length, followed by 10 minutes of discussion/answer-question session. The presentation is meant to be a dialogue between students and their research paper reading committee (supervisors). The Seminar Presentation should occur before the submission of the final draft. Assessment of this is both formative and summative, as it provides feedback which can then be taken into consideration by the student	30%	CLO2

Reading List	Reference Book Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hayot, E. 2014, <i>The elements of academic style: Writing for the humanities</i>, 1st Ed., Columbia University Press New York • Flick, U. 2011, <i>Introducing research methodology: A beginner's guide to doing a research project</i>, SAGE London • DiYanni, R. 2007, <i>Writing about the humanities</i>, Prentice-Hall New Jersey • Stokes, J. 2003, <i>How to do media & cultural studies</i>, SAGE London
Article/Paper List	This Course does not have any article/paper resources	
Other References	This Course does not have any other resources	