

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	Astronomy Dissertation					
MODULE CODE	AA3050 (L6)	JACS CODE	F500	CREDIT VALUE	20 credits	
DATE OF APPROVAL	April 2017				VERSION NUMBER	1
SCHOOL	Physical Sciences and Computing	PARTNER INSTITUTION		N/A		

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER MODULES

Co-requisites	NONE	Pre-requisites	None	Excluded Combinations	None
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MODULE AIMS

Students are expected to conduct a detailed investigation of a chosen topic at an advanced level in liaison with an academic supervisor.

The module aims are to:

- encourage the development of an independent study that is largely initiated and planned by the student and to see the work through to completion.
- write a substantial coherent report on an astronomical topic or theme.

MODULE CONTENT

The dissertation is an extended piece of work that requires research by way of a literature search and/or web search of up-to-date material and approval to proceed will be based on the availability of appropriate learning resource and the possibility of effective supervision by a member of staff.

Students will select an area of interest and formulate an appropriate title similar to those encountered in current research projects. The chosen topic must be sufficiently focused to allow an indepth review of the topic and for the discussion to be at an advanced academic level.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:	
1.	Use the library and internet resources to research a topic.
2.	Plan and carry out a piece of work with minimal supervision.
3.	Critically assess ideas and concepts and draw conclusions.
4.	Producing a coherent, structured, high quality written report of a substantial piece of work
5.	Present the work and answer specific questions on the dissertation with confidence and competence.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

The method of assessment for this module has been designed to test all the learning outcomes. Students must demonstrate successful achievement of these learning outcomes to pass the module.

Number of Assessments	Form of Assessment	% weighting	Size of Assessment/Duration/ Wordcount	Category of assessment	Learning Outcomes being assessed

1	Dissertation	80%	8000 words	Coursework	1,3,4,
1	Viva voce or equivalent	20%	Approx 20 minutes	Practical Assessment	2,3,5
1	Log book	0%	N/A	Coursework	2

MODULE PASS REQUIREMENTS

To pass this module you must achieve a mark of 40% or above, aggregated across all the assessments.

APPENDIX

MODULE CODE: AA3050 (L6)

MODULE TITLE: Astronomy Dissertation

LOCATION OF STUDY: *UCLAN CAMPUS*

MODULE TUTOR(S)	Barbara Hassall
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MODULE DELIVERY	Semester Long	Semester 1		Semester 2		Semester 3	
	Year long	Semester 1 & 2		✓	Semester 2 & 3		
	Other (please indicate pattern of delivery)	DISTANCE LEARNING					

MODULE LEARNING PLAN

All modules should include details of the average learning time based upon 200 hours per 20 credits.

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT STRATEGY

Distance learning students will learn via self-study according to a Module Schedule, Students will be expected to interact with their dissertation supervisor on a regular basis via email, telephone or Elearn. Distance Learning students will undertake their dissertation viva via telephone or video conferencing.

This module is normally taken during the final year of study of the BSc (Hons).

After initial discussions at the start of the module, the student will be assigned a dissertation supervisor. Students will also receive a briefing document with guidance on the operation of the module, the production of the dissertation and the conduct of the viva. In collaboration with their supervisor, students must identify a theme from a short list of topics which they will explore. The student will develop the theme into a dissertation proposal and workplan, on which they will receive formative feedback.

In the sessions with their supervisor the student will be encouraged to develop an alertness to coherence of argument, precision in the interpretation of the text, clarity of style and methodological problems and solutions, exact and scrupulous observation of scholarly and bibliographical conventions and to practise presentations of their ideas. General progress will be monitored regularly throughout the module and the student will be expected to take on board ideas and input from the supervisor.

The dissertation itself enables the student to show that they have completed a substantial piece of work, supported by research and presented to a high standard in a structured, coherent report.

On completion of the dissertation, each student will be expected to participate in a viva in which they present a short summary of the work that they have undertaken and take part in a question and answer session on the content of the dissertation.

In addition, students will be required to submit evidence of the development of their work in the form of an informal logbook or diary. The diary will be used as an independent check on the originality of the work in the dissertation and is therefore *a compulsory component*. The logbook or diary will not be awarded a formal mark but may be discussed in the viva.

SCHEDULED LEARNING AND TEACHING ACTIVITY	No. of hours
Tutorial	6
TOTAL SCHEDULED LEARNING HOURS (GUIDED INDEPENDENT STUDY)	
Background Reading	

Prep of dissertation	
Reflection on feedback	
TOTAL GUIDED INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS	194
<i>TOTAL STUDENT LEARNING HOURS</i> <i>These must add up to 200 hours per 20 credits</i>	200

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND LEARNING SUPPORT MATERIAL

On-line Booklist: <http://readinglists.central-lancashire.ac.uk/search.html?q=AA3050>