Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences Division

**Social Sciences Board**

Approved on behalf of the board’s Teaching Audit Committee on 31 August 2011

**Title of Programme**

MSc in African Studies

**Brief note about nature of change**: revisions to assessment for the Methodology, Ethics and Research Strategies core course

**Effective date**

With effect from 1 October 2011

**Location of change**

In *Examination Regulations, 2010*

**Detail of change**

1. p.681, delete ll.35-39, and substitute:

2. Candidates will be required to present themselves for examination in the compulsory paper in Themes in African History and the Social Sciences, and in one optional paper at the end of Trinity Term in the year of registration. In addition, each candidate will be required to submit the following written work:

   (i) One 5,000 word essay for the compulsory core course in Methodology, Ethics and Research Strategies selected from a list of questions approved by the African Studies Teaching Committee and made available to candidates by the last Friday of Michaelmas Term. The essay must be submitted not later than 12 noon on the first Monday of Hilary Term in the year in which the examination is taken.’.
Explanatory Notes

The regulation changes amend the current assessment for Methodology, Ethics and Research Strategies from a 3 hour unseen examination to a 5,000 word essay. A long essay would be most suitable for the Methodology, Ethics and Research Strategies course because it is a Michaelmas Term course (enabling the course to be assessed in the following vacation), and because the modular nature of the course (dealing with historical, anthropological and political science methodologies) lends itself better to a form of assessment that requires students to see the strengths and weaknesses of interdisciplinary approaches. The change also adjusts the balance of different forms of assessment for the programme as a whole so that these are more diverse and less reliant on unseen written examinations.