

# *Philadelphia University*

*Faculty: Arts .....*  
*Department: English ...Department..*

---

## **Syllabus**

First Semester 2017-2018

**Module Name: Methods of Research**

**Module Number: 120701**

**Level: MA**

**Credit Hours: 3**

**Prerequisite: .....**

**Lecturer :**

**Office Number: ....**

**Office Hours: 2-3 p.m. Sun/Tues/Thur**

**Phone: Ext:**

**E-mail: mhmasfour@gmail.com**

**Module Coordinator: Dr. Mohammad Asfour**

### **Aims (Module Purpose):**

1. To show students how to formulate a research problem in language and literature
2. To introduce them to the standard methods of documentation
3. To train them to make use of electronic and print resources
4. To familiarize them with the ethics of scholarly research
5. To prepare them to write papers on topics that are likely to be developed into MA theses.

### **Teaching Methods:**

1. Turning research problems into questions to be discussed in class
2. Doing exercises in formulating theses, writing definitions, summarizing other people's ideas, and making accurate quotations
3. Refining research problems by taking specific examples and conducting preliminary research on them
4. Preparing short annotated bibliographies on chosen topics
5. Studying research papers by recognized scholars that can be used as models

### **Learning Outcomes:**

*At the end of this module, student will be able to:*

# Philadelphia University

Faculty: Arts .....

Department: English ...Department..

---

1. formulate a research problem
2. make use of electronic and print resources to gather evidence in support of the thesis formulated
3. write a research paper according to the methods and standards of scholarly research

## Contribution to Program Learning Outcomes:

(Knowledge and Understanding, Intellectual Skills, Practical Skills, transferable skills)

### Learning Outcomes

#### a. Knowledge & Understanding:

This course is basically concerned with methodology. Its aim is to teach students how to conduct research. But research is not only a method; it is also a contribution to knowledge. Therefore, students will have to read extensively in order for them to find out what has been done in their field and what remains for them to do, and how they can present their finding in the most effective manner.

#### b. Intellectual Skills (cognitive & analytical):

Scholarly research engages the highest intellectual faculties in that it requires the ability to read other scholars' contributions critically and analytically and also to write one's own contribution objectively and dispassionately in order to locate gaps and weaknesses in the presentation of evidence and to anticipate possible counterarguments.

#### c. Practical Skills

The course is designed to enhance certain basic skills that include the following:

- reading and analyzing research papers
- making accurate quotations
- making accurate references
- paraphrasing and summarizing material that cannot be quoted extensively
- formulating a research problems and writing a thesis
- compiling a bibliography
- writing short and long research papers

# Philadelphia University

Faculty: Arts .....

Department: English ...Department..

---

## d. Transferable Skills:

In this course students will study the methods of research in order to learn how to write an MA thesis, and, possibly, research papers that can be published in scholarly journals.

Modes of Assessment	Score	Date
First Exam	20	
Second Exam	20	
Assignment / Seminar / Project / Quizzes / Tutorial	10	
Final Exam	50	

## Module Outline:

Week	Date	Subject
(1)		<i>Guide</i> , Chapters 1 & 2
(2)		<i>Guide</i> , Chapters 3 & 4
(3)		<i>Guide</i> , Chapters 6 & 7
(4)		<i>Guide</i> , Chapters 8 & 9
(5)		<i>Guide</i> , Chapters 10 & 11
(6)		<i>Guide</i> , Chapters 12 & 13
(7)		<i>Guide</i> , Chapters 14 & 15
(8)		<b>Aims</b> , "Linguistics"; <b>Watson</b> , "Linguistics"; <b>Daiches</b> , "Criticism, Linguistics and Anthropology"
(9)		<b>Aims</b> : "Textual Criticism" + <b>Mirror</b> : Greg's "Rationale of Copy-Text"
(10)		<b>Aims</b> : "Literary History" + <b>Mirror</b> : Bloomfield's "Symbolism in Medieval Literature"
(11)		<b>Aims</b> : "Literary Criticism" + <b>Watson</b> : "The Theory of Kinds" + <b>Daiches</b> : "Criticism and Scholarship"

# Philadelphia University

Faculty: Arts .....  
Department: English ...Department..

(12)		<b>Relations:</b> "Literature and History" + <b>Mirror:</b> Crane's "The Houyhnhnms, the Yahoos, and the History of Ideas"
(13)		<b>Relations:</b> "Literature and Myth" + <b>Myth:</b> Chase's "Myth as Literature"
(14)		<b>Relations:</b> "Literature and Biography" + <b>Mirror:</b> Leon Edel's "Psychoanalysis and Literary Biography" + <b>Theory:</b> "Literature and Biography"
(15)		<b>Relations:</b> "Literature and Psychology" + <b>Theory:</b> "Literature and Psychology" + <b>Daiches:</b> "Criticism and Psychology"
(16)		<b>Relations:</b> "Literature and Sociology" + <b>Theory:</b> "Literature and Society" + <b>Daiches:</b> "Criticism and Sociology"

➤ Make-up exams will be offered for valid reasons only with consent of the Dean. They may be different from regular exams in content and format.

## Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory. Students may be absent for a maximum of 15% of the total module hours. If this percentage is exceeded and the student has an acceptable excuse, he or she will be allowed to withdraw from the module. Otherwise, they will forfeit the right to sit for the final examination and will be given a zero for the module.

## Expected Workload:

On average you should expect to spend at least (8) hours per week on this module.

## Text Book(s):

Title: James D. Lester & James D. Lester, Jr. *Writing Research Papers: Complete Guide*. 13<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Longman, 2002. **(Guide)**

# Philadelphia University

Faculty: Arts .....  
Department: English ...Department..

---

## References:

- Beaurline, Lester A., ed. *A Mirror for Modern Scholars: Essays in Methods of Research in Literature*. New York: The Odyssey Press, 1966. **(Mirror)**
- Daiches, David. *Critical Approaches to Literature*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London: Longman, 1981. **(Daiches)**
- Miller, James E. Jr., ed. *Myth and Method: Modern Theories of Fiction*. Lincoln, Neb.: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1960. **(Myth)**
- Thorpe, James, ed. *Relations of Literary Study: Essays on Interdisciplinary Contributions*. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1967. **(Relations)**
- Thorpe, James, ed. *The Aims and Methods of Scholarship in Modern Languages and Literatures*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1970. **(Aims)**
- Watson, George. *The Study of Literature: A New Rationale of Literary History*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1969. **(Watson)**
- Wellek, René, & Austin Warren. *Theory of Literature*. 3<sup>rd</sup>. ed. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1963. **(Theory)**