



Philadelphia University
Department of English
Fall 2018

Course Title: Research Methodology Seminar (Graduate Level)

Course No.: 120701

Instructor: Dr. Shadi Na'amneh

Meeting Times: Sundays 4-7

Office Hours: 12-1 on Thursdays

(The Professor is also available via appointment)

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Meeting Place: Arts 31407

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is meant to provide students with essential skills they need to conduct research in the field of humanities/social sciences in general and in English studies in particular. We will survey different approaches to writing scholarly articles as well as different documentation formats. Ethical considerations and implications related to the research process, like avoiding plagiarism, are also covered. Students will mainly study the academic conventions of MLA and APA and undergo a writing workshop that involves topic selection, drafting, peer-review, revising, editing, and possibly submission. The course is ultimately an exercise in writing scholarly articles for future publication and an attempt to explore the “process” of academic writing.

Weekly Plan and Assigned Readings:

Weeks 1-4: MLA (Research and Writing, Plagiarism, The Mechanics of Writing, Formatting and Documentation)

Weeks 5-7: APA (Writing in Social Sciences, Manuscript Structure, Clarity and Mechanics, Crediting Sources, Publishing)

Week 8: Midterm

Week 9: Research Samples (Articles covering the areas of Literature, Linguistics, Translation)

Week 10: Topic Selections for Term Papers

Week 11: Abstracts / Outlines Due

Weeks 12-14: Writing Workshop and Peer-Review (3-pages drafts, 6-page drafts, 10-page drafts respectively)

Week 15: Paper Presentations / Final Exams

Note: Specific assignments and requirements will be announced whenever necessary on the course whatsapp group.

Grade Division:

Oral Presentation 20%

Midterm Exam 30%

Participation and Attendance 10%

Term Paper (Final Exam) 40% (10-15 Pages) (Due Date: TBA later)

References and Materials:

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed. MLA, 2009.
Publication Manual of the APA. 6th ed. Washington, DC: APA, 2010.
Sample Articles in Course Packet.

Good Luck! Dr. Shadi Na'amneh