

University of Baghdad
College of Arts
Department of English
MA Course/ English Literature
Methods of Research/2023-2024

Course Teacher:

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Course Description:

This course aims at introducing MA students of literature to relevant research skills (reading and writing), a solid background in research methods which provide a guide to choose meaningful topics, and write clear and correct research papers. An accumulation of knowledge, insight, and critical thinking to observe, analyze, and argue about published research works is another target of this course. Sufficient emphasis will be placed on the crucial methods of scholarly, research design, and data collection scholarly documentation based on MLA and APA Styles. In addition to that, by the end of the semester, students are required to submit a full-fledged design for research papers.

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students are supposed to apply the basic techniques of doing research and developing argumentative, expand their knowledge of scholarly research, and choose topics for research works, including formulating the hypothesis of their theses. MA students are supposed to have the skill to analyze the writing of their peers and identify the problems that might arise while conducting research. Above all students are to become better at expressing their thoughts, ideas, and notions within multiple contexts of literature in relation to other disciplines.

Course Outline and Schedule:

Week one: Introduction: What is a research work? What are the different types of research work? What does a research paper consist of? How to read and understand a research work? How to read with a critical eye?

Week Two: Reading selected articles from Richard Altick's *The Art of Literary Theory* and Rene Wellek's *The Theory of Literature* to develop reading skills and critical understanding of the meaning of a research work.

Week Three: Finding a topic, Organizing Ideas and Setting Goals, Forming a Thesis Statement, Conducting Field Research

Week Four: Gathering Sources in the Library and Online, Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism, Reading and Evaluating Sources

Week Five: Writing Effective Notes and Creating Outlines, Drafting the Paper in an Academic Style (planning its structure).

Week Six: Mid-Term Exam+ Blending Reference Material into Your Writing Using MLA Style

Week Seven: Writing the Introduction, Body, and Conclusion

Week Eight: Revising, Proofreading, and Formatting the Rough Draft

Week Nine + Ten: Works Cited: MLA + APA Styles (Research Citation techniques)

Week Eleven: How to Write Paper Presentations (Power Point) and How to do Presentations

Week Thirteen: Writing Samples Theses Proposals

Week Fourteen: Another Mid-Term Exam

Week Fifteen

Throughout the course, Students are expected to be in class on time. Students who exceed the limits of absence hours will fail the class. Students are also expected to participate constantly in class, and this means actually taking part in class discussions. Attendance alone will not be regarded as participation Mobile phones should be either off or silent. Under no circumstance will phone ringing be tolerated in class.

Altick, Richard D. *The Art of Literary Research*. New York: Norton, 1993.

D.Lester, James and D.lester.Jr. James. *Writing Research Papers: A Complete Guide*. II ed. New York: Pearson, 2005.

Eliot, Simon and W.R. Owens, eds. *A Handbook to Literary Research*. Oxen: Rutledge, 1998.

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 8 th ed. New York: Modern Language Association, 2016. Print.

Wellek, Rene & Austin Warren. *Theory of Literature*. Harvest Books; 3rd ed. 1984.