

**Research Methods**  
**MA in English Literature**  
**Alzahra University**

**Instructor: Dr. M. Hoorvash**

**Semester: 97-2 (2018-2019)**

<http://staff.alzahra.ac.ir/hoorvash/en>

**Objectives:**

- The course begins by reviewing the essentials of essay writing and moves to academic writing.
- The students then learn about the steps necessary in a research project in their fields of study.
- The students learn about proposal writing, choose a topic and are guided through the process of writing a proposal for it.
- The students also learn about writing research papers, and are guided through the process of writing an article on their selected topic.
- The students become familiar with some of the aspects of publishing a research.

**Resources:**

Lester, James D. & James D. Lester, Jr. *Writing Research Papers: a Complete Guide*. 15<sup>th</sup> ed. London: Pearson, 2015.

Rahimi, Mohammad & Saeed Mehrpour. *A Complete Guide to Academic Writing for EFL Learners*. Shiraz University Press, 2010.

Griffin, Gabrielle, editor. *Research Methods for English Studies*. Edinburgh University Press, 2005.

Da Sousa Correa, Delia & Owens, W. R., editors. *The Handbook to Literary Research*. Routledge, 2009.

Also, the students are supposed to use the materials available to them through the Dropbox link I send them at the beginning of the semester.

**Evaluation:**

Class activity (participation, preparation, assignments, etc.): 30%

Final exam: 10%

Research paper: 30%

Thesis proposal: 30%

## Syllabus:

week	Date	topic	assignment
1	20 Bahman	Holiday	
2	27 Bahman	Paragraph Writing	A well-organized paragraph (due W 3)
3	4 Esfand	Research paper: Topic selection and proposal writing Research schedule, organizing ideas	A scholarly thesis topic (due W 6)
4	11 Esfand	Essay writing (review)	
5	18 Esfand	Proposal writing	Thesis statement/ hypothesis + short review of literature (due W 7)
6	25 Esfand	Resources: library & web Field research and research methods	
7	17 Farvardin	Proposal samples	Short Farsi proposal (due Week 10)
8	24 Farvardin	Plagiarism	Working bibliography + research questions (due W 11)
9	31 Farvardin	Writing outlines	Article outline (due W 12)
10	7 Ordibehesht	Evaluating resources and note taking	English proposal-first draft (due W16)
11	14 Ordibehesht	Academic writing style	
12	21 Ordibehesht	Structure of the paper: introduction, body, conclusion	Article Introduction (due W 14)
13	28 Ordibehesht	Citation styles	
14	4 Khordad	Revising and proof reading	
15	11 Khordad	where to publish	A research Paper (due 31 Tir)
16	18 Khordad	Conclusion	English proposal (due 15 Mordad)

## Assignments' Due Dates:

Scholarly topic -----	۲۵ اسفند
Thesis statement/ hypothesis + short review of literature -----	۱۷ فروردین
Short Farsi proposal -----	۷ اردیبهشت
Working bibliography + research questions -----	۱۴ اردیبهشت
English proposal (first draft) -----	۱۱ خرداد
English proposal (final edition) -----	۱۵ مرداد
***	
Article outline -----	۲۱ اردیبهشت
Article introduction -----	۴ خرداد
Article (final draft) -----	۳۱ تیر

---

**Structure of the Proposal: (15-20 pages)**

1. Title page
  2. Overview (general background/general introduction) (1-2 pages)
  3. Argument (3-5 pages)
    - a- Statement of the problem
    - b- Objectives of the study (purpose/aim)
    - c- Research questions
    - d- Significance of the study (rationale)
    - e- Limitations of the study (scope)
  4. Review of literature (2-4 pages)
  5. Methodology (including the conceptual framework) (2-3 pages)
  6. Definition of key terms (2-3 pages)
  7. Thesis organization (1-2 pages)
  8. Works cited
  9. Working bibliography
- 

**Thesis organization:**

- I. Introduction
- II. Theory/ Background
- III. Discussion
- IV. Discussion
- V. Conclusion

**Or:**

- I. Introduction
  - II. Discussion
  - III. Discussion
  - IV. Discussion
  - V. Conclusion
-