Çankaya University

M.A. in English Literature and Cultural Studies

Spring 2017-2018

**ELL 512 Research Techniques and Academic Writing**

**Dr. Özlem Uzundemir**

**Office Hours: Tue. 14:20–15:10; Thu. 9:20–11:10**

**Course Description:** This course is designed to equip students with the knowledge of resources, research and technical skills, and ethical principles needed for writing essays in their graduate courses as well as for the M.A. thesis.

Coursework will engage them in the processes of producing and presenting a scholarly analytical essay: (1) in-class analysis and discussion of selected short texts; (2) required reading and discussion of a range of model published essays to understand the styles, orientations and techniques of critical writing; (3) research – finding and accessing specific and related general research material (online, in libraries and archives, and through other means), including lectures, essays, book chapters and dissertations; (4) selecting relevant and reliable sources; (5) integrating research material in academic writing – with emphasis placed on originality, intellectual property, and the absolute ethical necessity of avoiding plagiarism and related forms of dissimulation such as unattributed generalizations, summaries, and paraphrases; (6) international proofreading symbols and the editing process (including using various Microsoft Word editing tools); and (7) the logic and style of format and citation in MLA format.

In the course of the semester, students will be required to write a 15-page essay closely analysing a literary text. This will involve comprehensively researching relevant primary, secondary and theoretical literature; handing in drafts to be assessed at specified intervals; revising, editing, polishing and abstracting according to feedback received; and submitting the completed, polished version as the final product.

**Evaluation:** For this course, you are required to write one research paper Virginia Woolf’s *To the Lighthouse*.

Presenting model essays (10%)

Notes on Woolf’s novel (10%)

Formulating an argument (10%)

Presenting essays on Woolf’s novel (10%)

Quoting and citing sources (10%)

Research paper (50%)

**Textbooks:** We will be using Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams’s *The Craft of Research,* 3rd ed. The students are also required to have their own copies of the latest edition of *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. Additional reading material may be handed out during the course of the semester.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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| Week 1 | Introduction to research ethics and plagiarism |
| Week 2 | Research methods: library and online sourcesBooth et al, Chapter 5Analyzing Auden’s “Musee des Beaux Arts” |
| Week 3 | Booth et al, Chapter 6Reading model essays on Auden’s poem and formulating an argument |
| Week 4 | Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*Taking notes |
| Week 5 | Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*Formulating an argument |
| Week 6  | Questioning your argumentBooth et al, Chapters 10 |
|  Week 7 | Discussing articles on Woolf’s novelPlanning: Booth et al, Part 4: Prologue Chapters 12 |
| Week 8 | Plagiarism and how to avoid itBooth et al, Chapters 13 |
| Week 9 | Quoting and citing secondary sources – the MLA formatFootnotes/endnotes |
| Week 10 | Quoting and citing secondary sources – the MLA format |
| Week 11 | Writing the introduction, conclusion and abstract |
| Week 12 | Revising organisation, argument and style |
| Week 13 | Peer review |
|  Week 14 | Analysis of student work |