ÇANKAYA UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

ENGLISH CULTURE AND LITERATURE MA PROGRAM

2019-2020 SPRING

**ELL 512 Research Techniques and Academic Writing**

**Assist. Prof. Berkem SAĞLAM**

**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 styles of format and citation in standard professional formats – MLA, Chicago, and APA.

In the course of the semester, students will be required to write at least one 15-25-page essay closely analysing a text such as a poem, short story, artwork, or critical/theoretical article. 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 two papers, one on Wilkie Collins’s *The Haunted Hotel*, or “A Terribly Strange Bed” and the other on the process of researching a subject of your choice. You are also required to keep a writing journal in which you document your writing process and various assignments given throughout the course.

Process Paper (25%)

Final Paper (30%)

3 Presentations (10% each)

Writing Journal (15%)

**Textbooks:** We will be using photocopy material from Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams’s *The Craft of Research*. 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 | 12.02.2020 | Introduction to the concept of research – value, ethics, and plagiarism  Keeping a research journal |
| Week 2 | 19.02.2020 | Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams, *The Craft of Research* Chapter 2 & Chapter 3 |
| Week 3 | 26.02.2020 | In-class discussion of Wilkie Collins’s works |
| Week 4 | 04.03.2020 | Booth et al., Chapter 4  Identifying the Research problem  Types of secondary texts  Keeping an Annonated Bibliography |
| Week 5 | 11.03.2020 | Prefaces, introductions, and chapters  **Presentation:** Bring one of each and present them to the class |
| Week 6 | 18.03.2020 | Booth et al. Chapters 5 and 6  Research Methods: library and online sources |
| Week 7 | 25.03.2020 | Formulating an argument  Booth et al, Chapters 7, 8 and 9 |
| Week 8 | 01.04.2020 | **Presentation:** Article presentations on the Wilkie Collins text  Booth et al. Chapters 12 and 13 |
| Week 9 | 08.04.2020 | Quoting and citing secondary sources – the MLA format  Booth et al. Chapter 14 |
| Week 10 | 15.04.2020 | Quoting and citing secondary sources – the MLA format  **Deadline**: first draft for W.C. |
| Week 11 | 22.04.2020 | Quoting and citing secondary sources – the MLA format |
| Week 12 | 29.04.2020 | Editing and proofreading |
| Week 13 | 06.05.2020 | Writing an abstract  **Deadline**: final project |
| Week 14 | 13.05.2020 | **Presentation** on the process of your personal essay |

**Journal Week 2**: In a very general sense, what type of research are you interested in? Why?

What areas of culture and literature are you interested in? (narrow down by author, nationality, century, topic, theme, etc.)

Provide 2-3 options that you would like to further your knowledge on and briefly brainstorm on them.

**Journal Week 3**: Go over the previous week’s work and add to it by researching and listing 2-3 works you’d be interested in working on.

**Journal Week 4**: Summarize the Collins texts and list some quotations/references/symbols etc. in them. Tentatively choose the one you want to study.

**Journal Week 5**: Identifying the research problem: write 2 paragraphs on what you think the text is about .

What about it would you like to do research on and why? (1 paragraph)

**Journal week 6:** Annonated Bibliography of texts you have read so far (at least 5 sources)

**Journal Week 7:** Your research problem/proposal of the Wilkie Collins text

**Journal Week 8:** Progress report on W.C.

Choice of text for personal essay & summary of key points

**Journal Week 9:** Outline for W.C. paper

**Journal Week 10:** freewriting

**Journal Week 11:** self-evaluation of first draft

+ progress on personal essay

**Journal Week 12:** Progress on personal research – annotated bibliography (5 sources)

**Journal Week 13:** Progress – in what way do you think your project will be a contribution to the academic field?

**Journal Week 14:** hand-in deadline for personal essay – thoughts for further research