



**ÇANKAYA UNIVERSITY**  
**M.A. in English Literature and Cultural Studies**  
**2025-2026 Academic Year – Fall Semester**  
**ELL 512 Research Techniques and Academic Writing**  
**Course Syllabus**

**Instructor:** Özge Üstündağ Güvenç, PhD.  
**Course Hours:** 18.00 – 21.00 Monday **Class:** Balgat Campus A-124  
**Office Hours:** 13.00 – 14.00 Thursday  
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### **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 10-15 to 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.

### **Textbooks**

The students are also required to have their own copies of the 9th edition of *the MLA Handbook* (9th edition) as well as Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West*.

**Unethical use of AI technology will be treated as plagiarism and will be subject to academic penalties.**

## Evaluation and Grading

ASSESSMENT TOOL	QUANTITY	PERCENTAGE
Presentations (Proposal + Annotated Bibliography)	2	10 %
Writing the Introduction	1	10 %
Writing the Body Paragraphs	2	5x2=10 %
Writing the Abstract and Öz	1	5 %
Midterm Exam	1	20 %
Final Exam (Term Paper)	1	40 %
Full Attendance Having the Required Materials Participation in the discussion of texts	14	5 %

## Weekly Schedule

Weeks	Content
<b>Week 1</b> 29 Sep. – 3 Oct.	<b>Syllabus Review</b> Research Ethics and Plagiarism Introduction to Research Methods Research Paper Writing Process Evaluation Criteria for Research Papers
<b>Week 2</b> 6 – 10 Oct.	<b>Documentation</b> <i>MLA Handbook</i> Core Elements of Sources Practice Exercises
<b>Week 3</b> 13 – 17 Oct.	<b>Documentation</b> <i>MLA Handbook</i> Creating a Works Cited List Practice Exercises
<b>Week 4</b> 20 – 24 Oct.	<b>Documentation</b> <i>MLA Handbook</i> In-Text Citation
<b>Week 5</b> 27 – 31 Oct.	<b>Literary Analysis: Mohsin Hamid's <i>Exit West</i></b> Text Discussion Argument Formulation
<b>Week 6</b> 3 – 7 Nov.	<b>Research Proposal Presentations</b>

<b>Week 7</b> 10 – 14 Nov.	<b>MIDTERM WEEK</b>
<b>Week 8</b> 17 – 21 Nov.	<b>In-Class Writing Workshop</b> Introduction Paragraphs Thesis Statement Development
<b>Week 9</b> 24 – 28 Nov.	<b>In-Class Writing Workshop</b> Body Paragraph Construction
<b>Week 10</b> 1 – 5 Dec.	<b>In-Class Writing Workshop</b> Body Paragraph Construction
<b>Week 11</b> 8 – 12 Dec.	<b>Annotated Bibliography Presentations</b>
<b>Week 12</b> 15 – 19 Dec.	<b>In-Class Writing Workshop</b> Source Integration and In-Text Citations
<b>Week 13</b> 22 – 26 Dec.	<b>In-Class Writing Workshop</b> Source Integration and In-Text Citations
<b>Week 14</b> 29 Dec. – 2 Jan.	<b>In-Class Writing Workshop</b> Abstract and Öz Writing
<b>Week 15</b> 5 – 9 Jan.	<b>FINAL EXAMINATIONS</b>
<b>Week 16</b> 12 – 16 Jan.	<b>FINAL EXAMINATIONS</b>

**I WISH US ALL A GREAT SEMESTER**