



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

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

I WISH US ALL A GREAT SEMESTER