ÇANKAYA UNIVERSITY
M.A. in English Literature and Cultural Studies
2026-2027 Academic Year – Fall Semester
ELL 512 Research Methods and Academic Writing
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Özge Üstündağ Güvenç, PhD.
Course Hours: 18.00 – 21.00 Thursday
Class: Balgat Campus A 302
Office Hours: 17.00 – 18.00 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.
Throughout the semester, students will write an 8-10-page essay that closely analyses a literary text. This will involve conducting comprehensive research into relevant **primary, secondary,** and **theoretical literature**; submitting drafts for assessment at specified intervals; revising, editing, polishing, and abstracting in response to feedback; and submitting the completed, polished version as the final product.

Textbooks
Students are also required to have their own copies of *the MLA Handbook* (9th edition).
Reading texts will be provided by the instructor.

A minimum attendance of 60% is mandatory. Students who do not meet this requirement will not be permitted to take the final examination. Students are responsible for tracking their own attendance.

Students who are found to have committed cheating in an examination or plagiarism on an assignment will fail the examination or assignment, and the final grade of that course will be reduced by twenty percent (20 %). Further action will also be taken if necessary. Please see university regulations.

Evaluation and Grading

ASSESSMENT TOOL	QUANTITY	PERCENTAGE
Presentations (Proposal + Annotated Bibliography)	2	20 %
Writing the Introduction	1	10 %
Writing the Body Paragraphs	2	20 %
Final Exam (Research Paper)	1	50 %

Weekly Schedule

Weeks	Content
Week 1 28 Sep. – 2 Oct.	**Course Introduction - Syllabus** Research Ethics and Plagiarism Introduction to Research Methods Research Paper Writing Process Evaluation Criteria for Research Papers Proposal Writing Annotated Bibliography Sample student research paper
Week 2 5 – 9 Oct.	**Documentation** *MLA Handbook* Core Elements of Sources (Practice)
Week 3 12 – 16 Oct.	**Documentation** *MLA Handbook* Creating a Works Cited List (Practice)
Week 4 19 – 23 Oct.	**Documentation** *MLA Handbook* In–Text Citation (Practice)
Week 5 26 – 30 Oct.	**No Class – Republic Day**
Week 6 2 – 6 Nov.	**Literary Analysis** Doris Lessing's "A Woman on a Roof" (close reading + argument formulation)
Week 7 9 – 13 Nov.	**Literary Analysis** Kazuo Ishiguro's "Crooner" (close reading + argument formulation)

Week 8 16 – 20 Nov.	**Literary Analysis** Mohsin Hamid's "The Face in the Mirror" (close reading + argument formulation)
Week 9 23 – 27 Nov.	Proposal Presentations
Week 10 30 Nov. – 4 Dec.	Annotated Bibliography Presentations
Week 11 7 – 11 Dec.	**In-Class Writing** Introductory Paragraph (submission in class)
Week 12 14 – 18 Dec.	**In-Class Writing** Body Paragraph 1 (submission in class)
Week 13 21 – 25 Dec.	**In-Class Writing** Body Paragraph 2 (submission in class)
Week 14 28 – 31 Dec.	**In-Class Writing** Body Paragraph(s) + Conclusion
Week 15 4 – 8 Jan.	**FINAL EXAMINATIONS (Research Paper Submission)**
Week 16 11 – 15 Jan.	**FINAL EXAMINATIONS**

I WISH US ALL A GREAT SEMESTER