

In the Name of He Who Makes Parables for Mankind



**Principles of Research Methodology:
An M.A. Course in English Literature**

Instructor: A. Horri



Arak University

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The Principles of Research Methodology for M.A. course in English Literature

Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man". F. Bacon's Essays

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Course Description: The main purpose of the course is to enable students to plan their own research and have realistic expectations of what they can achieve in the time available. Developing a well-articulated research proposal and/or term project can be a final product of this course.

Course objectives: On completion of the course students will have:

- 1) identified appropriate research questions and how they might be addressed by particular methodological approaches and data collection methods;
- 2) planned a program of research, showing an appropriate level of critical awareness of issues relating to research methodology;
- 3) Known how to do research preferably and hopefully in both Persian and English literature.
- 4) Presented a proposal and/or a research project in accord with the relevant academic conventions.

Requirements:

1. **Attendance:** more than **two** departures will be regarded as unjustified absences!
2. **Preparation:** In addition to doing each assignment prior to class, **you** should never arrive at class without whatever task is called for. **You** should arrive at class each session with whatever has been assigned as your homework.
3. **Participation:** Your participation will be judged chiefly according to the seriousness, attentiveness, and thoroughness with which you approach the class discussions. In the case of a borderline grade, the student who has been such an active participant will receive the mercy s/he so rightly deserves. Take passionately to heart what the French poet Charles Baudelaire (1821-1867) claimed: "the great sin is **BOREDOM**. .. {esp. with regard to doing research>}

Main Sources

Biggam, J. (2008) *Succeeding with Your Master's Dissertation: A Step-by-Step Handbook*. Basingstoke: Palgrave.. A useful, simple and easy to read book for a person that has not done a dissertation before.

Blaxter, L., Hughes, C. and Tight, M. (2006) *How to Research* (third edition). Buckingham: Open University Press. The first chapter gives an entertaining review of what research is about.

Booth, W. C. (2003). *The craft of research*. The university of Chicago press.

Cohen, L. and Manion, L. (1994) *Research Methods in Education*. London: Routledge.

Clark, W. & Vicki L. Plano Creswell, John (2015). *Understanding Research : A Consumer's Guide*. Pearson

Creswell, John W. (2018). *Research design: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches*. Sage.

Dawson, Catherine (2002). *Practical Research Methods: A user-friendly guide to mastering research techniques and projects*. Howtobooks

Deshpande, H. V. (2018). *Research in Literature and Language: Philosophy, Areas and Methodology*. Notion Press.

Hubbuck, S. M. (2005). *Writing research papers across the curriculum*. 5th ed.

Lester, J. D. & Lester J. D. (Jr.) (2012). 14th ed. *Writing research papers*. Pearson.

Lapan, Stephen D. *Qualitative research: an introduction to methods and designs*. by Jossey-Bass. Each student is supposed to choose at least 2 chapters of this book to summarize and make a PowerPoint of each.

Leavy, Patricia (2014). *The Oxford Handbook of Qualitative Research*. Oxf.Uni. Press.

Lester, J. D. & Lester J. D. (Jr.) (2012). 14th ed. *Writing research papers*. Pearson.

Mathews, B. & Ross, L. (2010). *Research methods : a practical guide for the social sciences*. Pearson Education Limited.

Rudestam, K. E. and Newton, R. (2007) *Surviving Your Dissertation: A Comprehensive Guide to Content and Process* (third edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.. Again, the first couple of chapters provide an introduction to research.

Swetnam, D. (2000) *Writing Your Dissertation: How to Plan, Prepare and Present Successful Work* (third edition). Oxford: How To Books. Chapter 1 gives some simple advice on how to get started.

Terrell, S. R. (2016). *Writing a Proposal for Your Dissertation Guidelines and Examples*. Thompson.

Walliman, W. (2011). *Research methods: the basics*. Routledge

Walliman. N. (2001). *Your research project*. Sage Publication

Winkler, a. C. & Metherell, J. R. (?). *Writing the research paper*. Wadsworth.

Zemach, D. & et.al. (?). *Writing research papers: from essay to research paper*.

A Tentative Syllabus

Ws	TOPICS	Discussion	Reviewing	Extensive Readings & Writing	Assignment
W 1-2	Preliminaries: Academic writing: writing research paper	My PPT; Walliman, 2001:5-20; Walliman 2011:7-28	Booth 9-32; Deshpande sect.1-7	Lester 2015, 19-27; Winkler 3-9; Lapan 3-13	In-class writing: just breaking the ice
W 3	Selection of a research approach	Creswell 2018: 1-21;	Walliman 151-188; Rudestam 51-79	Mathews 110-138; Swetnam 31-41; Leavy 81-179; Fick 3-35	Dawson 14-23; Cohn 5-34; Biggam 147-200; Yin2016:3-27
W 4-5	Finding a Topic; From topic to research question/problem	My PPT; Walliman 2001: 22-28; Booth 40-70	Biggam 91-108	Dawson 1-14	Choose your topic
6-9	Writing Proposal: Purpose Statements, Research Questions, and Hypotheses	Creswell 100-130; Creswell 133-146; Clark 79-117; 161-188	Walliman-222-236; Rudestam 95-105	Terrell 1-45; Mathews 174-176; Dawson 55-63; Biggam 61-91	Write your introduction
10-11	Literature review	Creswell 23-45; Clark 118-160 Booth 90-104; Walliman 2001:40-60;	Dawson 40-46; Rudestam 81-94; Biggam 134-146	Lester 40-72; Lester 73-91; Winkler 51 69; Mathews 93-106; Biggam 99-108	Review your literature
12-16	Methodology; types of research; Qali/quantitative	Creswell 49-72;	Walliman 2001:70-111	Creswell 179-245; Walliman 2011: 63-91	
13	Nature of argument	Booth 114-218	Walliman 117-150		
14	Research methods	Walliman 2001:226-271; Clark 285-328	Blaxter 53-89	Mathews 140-147	
15	Collecting Data	Booth 65-93; Clark 329-362		Blaxter 153-190	Self-study
16	Analyzing Data	Booth 128-150; Clark 353-380	dawson 110-129	Mathews152-171 Blaxter 193-223	Self-study
17	Conclusion	Booth 241-317; Clark 465-480	Biggam 212-232		
-	Organizing Ideas and Setting Goals	Lester 31-36, Zemach 23-30	Winkler 21-47	Zemach 8-15; Lester 10-20; Winkler 13-17; Lenberg 3-11	Self-study- Set the goals
-	Outlining; Drafting	Zemach 30-39; Lester 145-164; Blaxter 226-239	Zechman 60-69; Lester 166-182	HUBBUCH 91-125; Winkler 75-87; 91-115 Ellison 71-89	Self-study Outline your material; Write your first draft
-	Avoid Plagiarism	Zemach 39-50; Lester 108-118		Lester 120-144; Ellison 121-140	Self-study
-	Documentation;: APA/MLA/CMS	Lester 254-315		Hubbuch 206-254	Self-study
	In-text citation	Zemach 69-76; Lester 183-207		Hubbuch 170-186	Choose your own style

Supporting Sources

- Barnet, S. & Cain, W. E. (2014). *A short guide to writing about literature*. Pearson
- Barnet, S. & Cain, W. E. (2014). *A short guide to writing about literature*. Pearson
- Brandon, Lee & Brandon, Kelly (2011). *Paragraphs & Essays*. 11th ed. Wadsworth.
- Conlin, M. L. (1998). *Patterns: a short prose reader*. 5th ed. Newyork: Houghton Mifflin Company.
- Greetham, Bryan (2001). *How to Write Better Essays*. Palgrave.
- Hennessy, Brendan (1997). *Writing an Essay: How to Improve Your Performance for Coursework and Examinations*. How To Books, Ltd.
- Jordan, R. R. (1990). *Academic writing course*. Collins study. London: The Guilford Press
- Mayers, A. (2014). *Longman academic writing series: essays to paragraph papers*. Pearson. Mcmillan.
- Murray, N. (2012). *Writing essays in English language and linguistics*. Cambridge.
- Oshima, A. & Hogue, A. (2007). *Introduction to academic writing*. Pearson.
- Oshima, A. & Hogue, A. (2014). *Longman academic writing series: Essays*. Pearson.
- Roberts, E. V. (1999). *Writing about literature*. 9th ed. London: Prentice-Hall.
- Woolf, J. (2005). *Writing about literature*. Routledge.

Main Sources on Academic Writing

General Writing

- Bailey, S. (2006). *Academic writing: A handbook for international students*. NY: Routledge.
- Browne, M. N. and Keeley, S. M. (2007). *Asking the right questions: a guide to critical thinking* (8th ed). US: Pearson Education Ltd.
- Cottrell, S. (2005). *Critical thinking skills: developing effective analysis and argument*. China: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Elbow, P. (1998). *Writing with power: techniques for mastering the writing process*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Fischer, S. R. (2001). *A history of writing*. UK: Reaktion Books.
- Meyers, A. (2006a). *Composing with confidence: writing effective paragraphs and essays*. New York: Pearson.
- Meyers, A. (2006b). *Writing with confidence: writing effective sentences and paragraphs*. New York: Pearson.
- Murray, R. and Moore, S. (2006). *The handbook of academic writing*. UK: Oxford University Press.
- Raimes, A. (2004). *Grammar Troublespots*. UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Ruetten, M. K. (2012). *Developing composition skills: academic writing and grammar* (3rd ed). Boston, MA: Heinle.
- Savage, A. and Mayer, P. (2005). *Effective Academic Writing* (1-3). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Sova, D. (2004). *Writing clearly: a self-teaching guide*. US: Wiley.

Some key textbooks

- (Writing for publication)** Swales, J. and Feak, C. (2000) *English in today's research world: a writing guide*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.
- (Post-graduate)** Swales, J. and Feak, C. (2004) *Academic writing for graduate students: essential tasks and skills*, 2nd ed. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.
- (Advanced)** Leki, I. (1998) *Academic writing*, 2nd ed. New York: St Martin's Press.
- (Advanced)** Raimes, A. (2006) *Keys for Writers*, 4th ed. Boston MA: Houghton Mifflin.
- (High-intermediate)** Oshima, A. and Hogue, A. (2006) *Writing academic English*, 4th ed. Harlow: Pearson.

(High-intermediate) Mulvaney, M.K. and Jolliffe, D.A. (2004) *Academic writing: genres, samples, and resources*. Harlow: Pearson.

(Intermediate) Strauch, A. (1998) *Bridges to academic writing*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

(Low-intermediate) Jordon, R. (1999) *Academic writing course*, 3rd ed. London: Collins.

(High beginners) Hogue, A. (2007) *First steps in academic writing*, 2nd ed. Harlow: Pearson.

Core writing journals

Assessing Writing <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/asw> (interdisciplinary journal for writing teaching and assessment issues).

College Composition and Communication <http://www1.ncte.org/store/journals/105392.htm> (composition studies from a broadly humanistic perspective. For US college writing teachers).

Composition Studies <http://www.compositionstudies.tcu.edu/> (all aspects of composition and rhetoric, particularly in relation to US universities).

Computers and Composition <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/compcom> (all aspects of computers in writing teaching: software, tagging, LANs, ethics, effects, etc.).

Journal of Advanced Composition <http://www.jacweb.org/> (theoretical articles on topics related to rhetoric, writing, literacy and politics of education).

Journal of Basic Writing <http://www.asu.edu/clas/english/composition/cbw/jbw.html> (theory, research and teaching of basic writers).

Journal of Technical Writing and Communication

<http://www.baywood.com/journals/previewjournals.asp?id=0047-2816> (functional writing in a range of technical, scientific and professional environments).

Journal of Second Language Writing <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jslw> AND

<http://www.jslw.org/> (the leading journal of theoretically grounded research into L2 writing issues).

Pre-Text <http://www.pre-text.com> (journal of rhetorical theory).

Rhetoric Review (journal of rhetorical theory and practice with a philosophical orientation).

Text and Talk <http://www.degruyter.de/journals/text/detail.cfm> (inter-disciplinary forum for discourse studies).

Written Communication <http://wxc.sagepub.com/> (the leading journal in the field of research, theory and application of writing. Cutting-edge issues from linguistics, composition, sociology, psychology and cognitive sciences).

Written Language and Literacy [http://www.benjamins.com/cgi-](http://www.benjamins.com/cgi-bin/t_seriesview.cgi?series=WL%26L)

[bin/t_seriesview.cgi?series=WL%26L](http://www.benjamins.com/cgi-bin/t_seriesview.cgi?series=WL%26L) (journal of writing systems and the institutionalised use of written language).

Writing Lab Newsletter <http://writinglabnewsletter.org/> (monthly journal on one-to-one writing teaching issues).

On-line writing journals

Academic Writing archive: [http://wac.colostate.edu/atd/archives.cfm?](http://wac.colostate.edu/atd/archives.cfm?showatdarchives=aw)

[showatdarchives=aw](http://wac.colostate.edu/atd/archives.cfm?showatdarchives=aw) (refereed journal concerned with all aspects of writing across the curriculum published 2000 to 2003).

Across the Disciplines <http://wac.colostate.edu/atd/> (refereed journal devoted to language, learning, and all aspects of academic writing).

The Internet Writing Journal <http://www.internetwritingjournal.com/> (refereed journal which includes articles, interviews and reviews of creative writing in print).

Kairos <http://kairos.technorhetic.net/> (refereed electronic journal for teachers and researchers of all kinds of Internet-based writing and dealing with rhetoric, technology, and pedagogy).

Related journals (regularly carry papers on writing)

Applied Linguistics <http://www3.oup.co.uk/applij/>
English for Specific Purposes <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/esp>
Discourse and Society <http://www.sagepub.co.uk/journalsProdDesc.nav?prodId=Journal200873>
Discourse Studies <http://dis.sagepub.com/>
International Journal of Applied Linguistics <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0802-6106>
International Review of Applied Linguistics in Language Teaching <http://www.degruyter.de/journals/iral/>
Journal of Applied Linguistics <http://www.equinoxjournals.com/ojs/index.php/JAL>
Journal of Business Communication <http://job.sagepub.com/>
Modern Language Journal <http://mlj.miis.edu/>
System <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/system/>
TESOL Quarterly <http://www.tesol.org/t>

Key readings: Literary Studies

Carter, R. (1997) *Investigating English discourse: language, literacy and literature*. London: Routledge.
 Carter, R. and Simpson, P. (eds) (1995) *Language, discourse and literature: an introductory reader in discourse stylistics*. London: Routledge.
 Kirsznner, L. and Mandell, S. (2009) *Literature: reading, reacting, writing*, 7th edn. Florence, KY: Wadsworth Publishing.
 Lecercler, J.-J. (2000) *Interpretation as pragmatics*. London: Macmillan.
 Lynn, S. (2007) *Texts and contexts: writing about literature with critical theory*, 5th edn. Harlow: Longman.
 Nash, W. (1998) *Language and creative illusion: the writing game*. Harlow: Longman.
 Roberts, E.V. (2006) *Literature: an introduction to reading and writing*, 8th ed.. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
 Short, M. (1996) *Exploring the language of poems, plays and prose*. Harlow: Longman.
 Simpson, P. (1997) *Language through literature*. London: Routledge.
 Simpson, P. (2004) *Stylistics: a resource book for students*. London: Routledge.
 Verdonk, P. (2002) *Oxford introductions to language study: stylistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Key readings: creative writing

Amberg, J. and Larson, M. (1996) *Creative writing handbook*. Tucson, AZ: Good Year Books.
 Bernays, A. and Painter, P. (1991) *What if? Writing exercises for fiction writers*. New York: Collins.
 Kiteley, B. (2005) *3 a.m. epiphany*. Cincinnati, OH: Writer's Digest Books.
 Mueller, L. and Reynolds, J. (1990) *Creative writing: forms and techniques*. Lincolnwood, IL: National Textbook Co.
 New York Writers Workshop (2006) *Portable MFA in creative writing*. Cincinnati, OH: Writer's Digest Books.
 Vogler, C. (2007) *The writers journey: mythic structure for writers*, 3rd ed. Studio City, CA: Michael Wiese.
 Whiteley, C. (2002) *The everything creative writing book: all you need to know to write a novel, play, short story, screenplay, poem, or article*. Cincinnati, OH: Adams Media.
 Williams, B.A. (2006) *Writing wide: exercises in creative writing*. Kandiyohi, MN: Filbert Publishing.