

SYLLABUS

Title of the Course: IKA 699 Advanced Research Techniques

Course Credits: 4 (national), 7.5 ECTS

Course Status: Required

Semester: Fall 2014

Instructor: Dr. Sinan Akilli

Office Hours: To be announced.

Campus Phone: 297 8475 – Ext. 133

Email Address: sinanakilli@gmail.com

Class Schedule: Fri. 09:00-13:00 – Seminar Room

I. COURSE OBJECTIVE:

The aim of this course is to help the students gain the advanced level knowledge and develop the effective skills required to master the steps in the process of preparing a research paper, such as choosing a topic, using the library resources, compiling a working bibliography, avoiding plagiarism, taking notes, preparing an outline and writing an advanced level research paper.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of this course, the student;

1. Develops various and effective study skills (reading, note-taking, revising, studying for exams, sitting exams).
2. Defines the kinds of academic research and the concept of academic research paper.
3. Recognizes and uses effectively various sources s/he encounters during the process of research and the databases, libraries, and other electronic or actual spaces in which s/he can find these sources.
4. Remembers and applies the steps to be followed in the process of preparing a research paper and the principles about content and format organization.

III. COURSE OUTLINE

Week I (Sept. 26). General introduction, definition of “research,” planning the research, using the library, types of print and electronic sources.

Week II (Oct. 03) Official holiday.

Week III (Oct. 10) Format of the research paper (margins, text formatting, page numbers); the mechanics of writing (spelling, punctuation, quotations, italics, names, numbers, titles of works) (**Each student is required to bring a fully-charged laptop computer with word processor software to class for in-class practice**); how to choose a topic, narrow it down, and formulate it into an argument.

Week IV (Oct. 17) What is plagiarism and how to avoid it: paraphrasing and the use of direct quotations (**Working Title and Preliminary Research Findings Due**)

Week V (Oct. 24) Source research: working bibliography (bibliography cards); reading strategies, how to take notes (note cards)

Week VI (Oct. 31) Writing the paper: outlining, writing the abstract, (**Thesis Statement and Revised Title Due**)

Week VII (Nov. 7) Writing the paper: supporting the argument, organizing the ideas

Week VIII (Nov. 14) Preparing the list of works cited, (**Annotated Bibliography Due**)

Week IX (Nov. 21) Preparing the list of works cited, new technologies and apps

Week X (Nov. 28) Citing sources in the text: Footnotes, Endnotes, Parenthetical References, (**Note Cards and Outline Due**)

Week XI (Dec. 5) Drafting

Week XII (Dec. 12) Drafting (**First Draft Due**)

Week XIII (Dec. 19) Revising

Week XIV (Dec. 26) Editing (**Second Draft Due**)

Final Exam (Jan. 09): **Final Paper Due**

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION: Lecture, discussion, question and answer, group work, in-class exercise/practice, and research.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND STUDENT CONDUCT: Class attendance is obligatory and failure to attend more than two sessions (8 hours) will result in an F1. As this class will combine lectures, discussion and other in-class work, students are expected both to attend every session and to take an active part in class—joining in discussions and raising questions. Questions, discussion, and disagreement are all encouraged in this class. Likewise, academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes all forms of plagiarism, failing to appropriately represent and document sources, fabricating information or citations etc.

VI. ASSESSMENT:

15%: Midterm I (Working Title and Preliminary Research Findings 2%; Thesis Statement and Revised Title 5%; Note Cards 3% and Outline 5%)

15%: Midterm II (Annotated Bibliography 5%, First Draft 5%, Second Draft 5%)

50%: Final Paper

20%: In-class work (10%), and class participation (10%)

VII. COURSE BOOK: Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: MLA, 2009.