

# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *Workshop: Designing your Research - 54882*

*Last update 04-07-2018*

*HU Credits:* 2

*Degree/Cycle:* 2nd degree (Master)

*Responsible Department:* European Studies

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 2nd Semester

*Teaching Languages:* English

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Prof Gili S Drori

*Coordinator Email:* [gili.drori@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:gili.drori@mail.huji.ac.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:* Wednesdays 10:30-11:30

*Teaching Staff:*

Course/Module description:

The course is designed to guide research students (MA and PhD) towards composing the research proposal for their MA thesis or PhD dissertation; it is also relevant for students working towards their research seminar paper. To this aim, the study plan includes acquisition of academic research tools for designing an independent-mentored study, selection of research topic and question, preliminary literature review, building mentorship relations, developing research strategy relevant to the research direction, accreditation in research ethics, and composition of a comprehensive and revised research proposal.

Course assignments are sequential, reflecting stages of research planning process and submission deadlines are "road marks" in the progress towards a comprehensive research proposal. Therefore, the research proposal required for completion of the course is an accumulation – and revision – of assignments submitted along the semester.

Course/Module aims:

Course is intended to guide research students (MA and PhD) towards composing the research proposal for their MA thesis or PhD dissertation. Specific goals are: acquisition of academic research tools for designing an independent-mentored study, selection of research topic and question, preliminary literature review, building mentorship relations, developing research strategy relevant to the research direction, accreditation in research ethics, and composition of a comprehensive and revised research proposal.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Comprehensive, even if preliminary, research proposal for MA thesis or PhD dissertation;
- Recruitment of faculty mentor;
- Receipt of CITI ethics in research certificate.

Attendance requirements(%):

Compulsory-elective; graded.

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Course combines lectures, exercises, discussions, and student presentations, along with one-on-one meetings,

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on-line certification and...plenty of writing and rewriting of the proposal.

Course/Module Content:

Variety of topics that shall guide research students (MA and PhD) towards composing the research proposal for their MA thesis or PhD dissertation. Among the topics are: What is an independent-mentored research? Developing criteria for topic selection; Preparing for the literature review; Selection of research question, and relevant research strategy; Planning the process of research and writing; Student presentations of their work.

Required Reading:

- Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. 1995. "From topics to questions." In *The Craft of Research*, University of Chicago Press, pp. 35-45.
- Karnieli-Miller, Orit, Roni Strier, and Liat Pessach. 2009. "Power relations in qualitative research." *Qualitative Health Research* 19(2): 279-289
- Geddes, Barbara. 1990. "How the cases you chose affect the answers you get: Selection bias in comparative politics." *Political Analysis*, 2(1): 131-150
- Lipson, Charles. 2005. "'Every thesis should have a thesis.'" In *How to Write a BA Thesis?* University of Chicago Press, pp. 110-119
- Frances Kelly. (2011). "'Cooking together disparate things': the role of metaphor in thesis writing." *Innovations in Education and Teaching International*, 48(4): 429-438

Additional Reading Material:

\* Only as far as required for the topical focus of the literature review and the research proposal; and, based on prior consultation with Prof. Drori.

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %  
Presentation 0 %  
Participation in Tutorials 0 %  
Project work 0 %  
Assignments 0 %  
Reports 0 %  
Research project 0 %  
Quizzes 0 %  
Other 100 %  
see additional information

Additional information:

Course/module assessment; Percent of final grade (%):

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10% &eq; CITI on-line course and certification  
45% &eq; submission of 2 mid-term written assignments and in-class presentation (15% each)  
25% &eq; final, comprehensive and re-written research proposal (for thesis or dissertation)  
10% &eq; one-on-one meetings (with Prof. Drori and potential mentor; 5% each)  
10% &eq; attendance and participation

*Additional information:*

- Mandatory course for the European Forum's M.A. students registered in the research track and PhD candidates.