

ATA 574 – Guided Research I & “How to Write an MA Thesis”

Fall 2024
M 234
(ATA Seminar Room)

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Office hours: By appointment

Description:

This is an introductory course exclusively for ATA MA students and focuses on guiding the thesis writing process, helping you structure your research design and outcomes. Following a brief introduction which will cover some material on “how to write an MA thesis”, the course will continue in a workshop format. Each student will present his/her own MA thesis proposal, and peer review and discussion will be integral parts of the course. Attendance and active participation are required to pass this course, making it essential to attend class and complete all assignments.

Class meeting dates will be confirmed based on the availability and schedules of the participants. A tentative agenda is provided below. Please make sure to attend the first class, which will be held on September 30, 2024.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Students are expected to attend each class and fulfill the following requirements:

- 1) **Regular attendance and participation in class discussions** are expected. Students must inform the instructor beforehand if there is a medical reason for not attending the class.
- 2) Each student will **present his/her MA proposal** in the class.
- 3) At the end of the semester, each student will write a 10-page MA thesis proposal.

Recommended Sources:

1. Social Science Research Council. “On the Art of Writing Proposals”
2. Writing a Research Proposal: Advice to MERC Applicants
3. Gavin Lucas. “Becoming a Scientific Writer: Putting ‘Why?’ Before ‘How?’
4. **Jennifer Mason, (2002). *Qualitative Researching*. Sage Publications. (Chapter 2)

PART I: Conceptualizing Research and Writing

Week 1: September 30, 2024 – Introduction to the Class

Recommended Reading: Social Science Research Council. “On the Art of Writing Proposals”

Week 2: October 14, 2024 – Research Questions and Research Design

Readings:

1. Writing a Research Proposal: Advice to MERC Applicants
2. Gavin Lucas. “Becoming a Scientific Writer: Putting ‘Why?’ Before ‘How?’

PART II: Students’ Presentations

Week 3: November 4, 2024

Student presentations (TBA)

Week 4: November 18, 2024

Student presentations (TBA)

Week 5: December 2, 2024

Student presentations (TBA)

Week 6: December 16, 2024

Student presentations (TBA) & Evaluation

Assignment: Final versions of the MA thesis proposals are to be submitted by December 23, 2024.