

# **ATA 574- Guided Research in World History I or “How to Write an MA Thesis”**

This is a basic/ introductory course on writing an MA thesis. It is an interactive class that aims to lay bare the basics of research and writing by focusing on each of the participants' MA thesis proposals. The class is divided into two halves: In the first half, we will read very basic works on conducting research. In the second half participants' MA theses will be discussed in class. In both halves, there will be in class exercises, and writing assignments.

Attendance and participation is greatly important for this course (and for the process of writing your MA theses), therefore it is mandatory to come to class and do the exercises/ assignments. Please make note of the dates in which the class will convene and make sure to arrange your schedules accordingly.

## **Schedule**

-I-

## **CONCEPTUALIZING RESEARCH AND WRITING**

**SEPTEMBER 23**      **WHAT IS RESEARCH?**  
(14.00)

**Reading**                      Wayne Booth, Gregory Colomb and Joseph Williams (2008)  
The Craft of Research (University of Chicago Press, 3rd  
Edition), Chs. 1-2

**Assignment**                      *Send to class participants the short MA thesis proposal you  
had submitted to the Institute back in May and come ready to  
talk about/ discuss your proposals. If your proposal has  
changed or improved, feel free to send the new version. (Due  
Sept. 20)*

**SEPTEMBER 30**      **FROM RESEARCH INTERESTS TO QUESTIONS**  
(10.00)

**Reading** Wayne Booth, Gregory Colomb and Joseph Williams (2008) The Craft of Research (University of Chicago Press, 3rd Edition), Chs. 3-4

Kristin Luker (2008) Salsa Dancing into the Social Sciences: Research in an Age of Info Glut (Harvard University Press), Ch. 4 “What is this a Case of Anyway?”

Asya Saydam (2015) Changing Retirement Patterns in Turkey: A Comparative Study of Metal and Municipal Sector Workers (Atatürk Institute, MA Thesis), Prologue and Introduction.

**Guest** Asya Saydam

**OCTOBER 7** **(RE)SOURCES AND METHODS**  
(10.00)

**Reading** Kristin Luker (2008) Salsa Dancing into the Social Sciences: Research in an Age of Info Glut (Harvard University Press), Chs. 5, 8-9.

Wayne Booth, Gregory Colomb and Joseph Williams (2008) The Craft of Research (University of Chicago Press, 3rd Edition), Ch. 6

**Assignment** *Come to class with 5 sources (at least 2 books) that most closely deal with the questions you raise in your MA thesis and be prepared to discuss these works in class. Then, write an essay that critically engages with these sources showing how your project adds to or differs from what they do AND how your methods of data gathering is similar to or different from them. (due by October 12)*

**OCTOBER 14** **MAKING CLAIMS / ARGUMENTS**

**Reading** Wayne Booth, Gregory Colomb and Joseph Williams (2008) The Craft of Research (University of Chicago Press, 3rd Edition), Chs. 7-9

Said Salih Kaymakçı (2013) The Sultan's Entrepreneurs, the Entrepreneurs' Sultan: Beratlı Avrupa Tüccarı and Institutional Change in the Nineteenth Century Ottoman Empire (1835-1868) (Atatürk Institute, MA Thesis), Chs. TBA

**Guest** Said Salih Kaymakçı

**Assignment** *Extend/rewrite your MA thesis proposal in the light of the above readings and discussions (10 pages- **due by October 24**)*

**-II-  
STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**

***OCTOBER 28***

4 student presentations  
Names TBA

***NOVEMBER 11***

4 presentations  
Names TBA

**Assignment** *Revise your 10 page thesis proposal down to 5 pages*

***NOVEMBER 25***

4 presentations  
Names TBA

***DECEMBER 9***

4 presentations  
Names TBA

**Assignment**

Revise your 5 page proposal down to 2 pages