



The Art of Academic Writing: Writing a Thesis

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Course Description:

This course prepares students to design and execute an original research project within the field of Holocaust Studies. The curriculum balances the practical—navigating the mechanics of writing an MA thesis—with the conceptual, exploring what makes a research project significant, compelling, and original. Students will apply these methodologies directly to their own topics of interest, using the course as a platform to refine their research and writing skills in preparation for their MA thesis.

Course Requirements:

Full attendance.

Weekly assignments: Students are required to find and read one article on their subject each week, to present its main arguments in class and to explain how it influences their thinking about their subject, research question, and the argument they try to develop.

Course assignment: Students are required to upload to Moodle and present in the last classes of the course a brief thesis proposal according to the instructions given throughout the course and outlined below. Do use the examples of thesis proposals on Moodle to have a better sense of how it is to be done.

Grades: the course is a pass/fail course.

Instructions for a short thesis proposal (2-3 pages):

1. Introduction

Present the topic, the aim of the research, the specific research question you would like to explore, why it is interesting or important, and what your main argument is.

2. Literature review

Write a short literature review about your subject based on the five articles you read (or more if you read more) and explain how your research will add/improve/challenge the existing research.

3. Sources and methodology

Explain which primary sources you are going to use and what methodology you will employ in analyzing them.

4. Chapter outline

Explain what you are going to do in each of the three chapters of your thesis.