

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MANDI
Proposal for a New Course

Course Number:	HS 611
Course Title:	Research Writing
Credit:	3-0-3
Prerequisites:	M.A. and Ph.D. students in H&SS
Students intended for:	Ph.D.
Elective or Compulsory:	Elective
Semester:	Even/Odd

Course Preamble:

Generally, most of the time research writing takes place at a tacit level, and a student is expected to know the conventions and styles of research writing implicitly, without any explicit exposure to writing techniques, which in turn results in a messy unstructured writing. This course aims to specifically to target this lacuna. Although different disciplines in the Humanities have their own methodological specificity, lucid writing is an indispensable requirement for clear communication of ideas. The course envisages helping the students develop a conceptual framework, structure arguments, formulate, position and negotiate a discourse, report and use data, and reference and cite. It would include emphasis on strategies to revise, redraft and edit. Envisioned to be rigorous writing course, it would emphasise fluent and creative writing, have recourse to peer feedback, and group editing via group discussions.

Course Outline:

- Module I: 4 hrs
 - Prewriting – questions and strategies.
 - Identification of the problem.
- Module II: 6 hrs
 - Literature review.
 - Reading primary and secondary sources effectively.
 - Note-taking strategies.
- Module III: 3 hrs
 - Types of writing: analytical, expository and argumentative.
- Module IV: 6 hrs
 - Thesis statement/s and hypotheses.
 - Methodology.
- Module V: 6 hrs
 - Creating an outline and forming an argument.
 - Writing the introduction and conclusion.
 - Abstract writing.

- Module VI: 6 hrs
 - Managing sources: referencing and citations.
 - Plagiarism and research ethics.
- Module VII: 4 hrs
 - Results, analysis and discussion.
- Module VIII: 4 hrs
 - Editing and revision strategies.
- Module IX: 3 hrs
 - Presenting research.

Total contact hours: 42

Reading list:

Becker, Howard S. *Tricks of the Trade: How to Think About Your Research While Doing It*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998.

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2008.

Machi, Lawrence A. and Brenda T. McEvoy. *The Literature Review: Six Steps to Success*. Thousand Oaks: Corwin, 2009.

Pinker, Stephen. *The Sense of Style: The Thinking Person's Guide to Writing in the 21st Century*. New York: Penguin, 2014.

Strunk Jr., William and E.B. White. *The Elements of Style*. Fourth Edition. Longman, 2000.

Swales, J. M. and C. B. Feak. *Academic Writing for Graduate Students*. Third edition. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2012.

Zinsser, William. *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction*. New York: Harper Collins, 2016 (30th Anniversary edn.).

Other Faculty Members interested in teaching this course:

Proposed by: Dr. Suman, Dr. Devika Sethi

School: SHSS

Signature Devika Sethi Date _____

 Approved / Not Approved

 Chairman, Senate

Date: _____