

Jarash University

Faculty of Arts Department of English Literature and Translation

Research methods in English

Course Description

In accordance with the study plan approved by our department, this course is compulsory for the BA students majoring in literature at JPU. Generally, this Course focuses on the theoretical and practical basics of research in English. It starts with addressing the basic concepts/types of research. The students are exposed to all the various parts of a piece of research (including introduction, literature review, research method, results/data analysis, discussion and conclusion) plus the other minor parts such as title and abstract as a front matter and references and appendix(s) a back matter. Each student is then to conduct a real piece of research on a simplified level. Other topics in relation to research (e.g. ethics, funding and publishing) are also considered.

Objectives

This course aims to guide students at the Section of English in Jarash university towards achieving competence and proficiency in the theory of and practice to research. This fundamental objective can be realised through helping these students to develop the subject of their research, encourage the formation of higher level of trained intellectual ability, critical analysis, rigour, and independence of thought, foster individual judgement, and skill in the application of research theory and methods, and develop skills required in writing research proposals, reports, and papers.

Course Contents:

Theme 1 Research Methodology

1. Meaning of Research 2. Definitions of Research 3. Objectives of Research 4. Motivation in Research 5. General Characteristics of Research 6. Criteria of Good Research 7. Types of Research.

Theme 2 The Research Problem:

1. Scientific Thinking 2. What is a Research Problem 3. Selecting the Problem 4. Sources of the Problem 5. Defining a Problem 6. Statement of a Problem 7. Delimiting a Problem 8. Evaluation of a Problem.

Theme 3 The Review of Literature:

1. Meaning of Review of Literature 2. Need of Review of Literature 3. Objectives of Review of Literature 4. Sources of Literature 5. The Functions of Literature 6. How to Conduct the Review of Literature 7. Some Hints for the Review of Literature 8. Precautions in Library Use 9. Reporting the Review of Literature.

Theme 4 The Research Strategies:

1. What are the Research Strategies? 2. Which Strategy to Choose? 3. Case Studies 4. Experiments 5. Ethnography.

Theme 5 The Data Collection methods:

1. Questionnaires 2. Interviews 3. Focus Groups 4. Observation

Course book:

Research Writing Simplified: A documentation Guide. Forth Edition, by Raymond H. Clines and Elizabeth R. Cobb.

Further readings

- 1) Burns, Robert B. (2000). *Introduction to Research Methods. 4 Edition*. New York, United States of America: SAGE Publications Ltd.
- 2) Williamson, Kirsty & Johanson, Graeme (2017). *Research Methods: Information, Systems, and Contexts*. United States of America: Chandos Publishing.