**F C College University**

**History Department**

**(Bachelor of Studies Program)**

**HIST 499: Independent Research**

**Spring Semester 2023** **Instructor/Supervisor:** Prof. Dr. Sikandar Hayat

**Credit Hours:** 3 **Office Hours:** (E-037): Monday, 2-3 pm

**Class Room:** Instructor office (E-037)& Wednesday, 2-3pm and by Appointment

**Email**: sikandarhayat@fccollege.edu.pk

**Class Time & Days:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 3pm and by Appointment

1. **Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to help students do ‘independent’ research, with some supervision and guidance, based on their learning through prior courses, particularly Research Methods (Hist 201) and Research Methodology (Hist 400). The students are expected to demonstrate their general research and writing skills, highlighting logical and practical steps to accomplish their research goals, and produce, in the end, clear, coherent, and well-argued findings and conclusion.

To begin with, the students will be required to select a Topic, draw an Outline, formulate a Statement of the Problem with a key Research Question and 3/4 Research Questions, develop Review of the Literature, describe relevant Research Methods/ Methodology, and provide persuasive evidence, that is, data, including some Primary Sources, and finally, its interpretation to reach a sound conclusion.

In this whole effort, the students must convey critical thinking and aptitude for research.

The Word Count for Independent Research Paper is around 8,000 words, 10% plus and minus. Notes and Bibliography should follow Turabian Style, as given in the Research Methodology Manual provided for the purpose.

**Important Note**: **The Pap er will be due by the end of May 2023**. Incomplete papers will earn Incomplete (‘I’) grade and will be converted into letter grades after completion and submission of the paper, within the time allocated for the purpose by the University (see the Catalog).

1. **Learning Objectives and Goals:**
2. To articulate clear, researchable questions.
3. To develop a clear, consistent, and rational argument and line of inquiry.
4. To interpret primary and secondary sources critically and methodically.
5. To offer a plausible perspective on the subject of research.
6. To follow the style and form for citations as given in the Manual.
7. **Pr-requisite: HIST 400 and HIST 496.**
8. **Ethics and Integrity:**

Academic integrity is integral to learning, research, indeed scholarship. Students are expected to be honest in their pursuits and to maintain high standard of personal and professional conduct. Its violation includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating on others’ work, collusion, and manipulation and distortion of source material.

**The Independent Research Paper will be checked for plagiarism through Turnitin, anti-plagiarism software.**

1. **Assessment/Grade Distribution:**

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| 1. Topic and Outline-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------10% 2. Statement of the Problem, Key Research Question and Research Questions---------------10% 3. Research Methods/Methodology-----------------------------------------------------------------10% 4. Literature Review---------------------------------------------------------------------------------- 20% 5. Data/Sources-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------20% 6. Discussion, and Conclusion-----------------------------------------------------------------------20% 7. Notes and Bibliography----------------------------------------------------------------------------10%   Total--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------100% |

1. **Class MMeetings Schedule and Topics:**

Class meetings will be held together initially, but once the outlines are approved and the students start with data collection, they will be meeting with the instructor/supervisor separately, as they report on the progress of their papers till their final completion and submission for evaluation and grading.

**Weeks 1 & 2: Introductory**

The students will be familiarized, once again, with the basic steps in the Research Process, leading up to the completion of a research paper.

**Week 3: Selection of Topic**

The student will discuss their preferred topics for the research paper for their final selection and approval.

**Weeks 4 & 5: Writing Up**

The students will be exposed to the style and form of a good research paper, including its ‘Organisation, layout, editing, and submission.’ Gina Wisker, *The Postgraduate Research Handbook* (New York: Palgrave, 2001), Ch.23, ‘Writing Up: Definitions and Qualities of a Good MA, MPhil, EdD and PhD Thesis’, pp.271-91.

**Week 6: Outline of the Paper**

The students will submit preliminary outlines of their approved topics, subject to modification/revision in the light of their data collected subsequently.

**Weeks 7 & 8: Data Collection**

The students will collect the relevant data for their topics, archival and library-based, and will share it with the instructor for his feedback and advice.

* Loraine Blaxter, Christinia Hughes and Malolm Tight, *How to Research* (New Delhi: Viva Books, 1999), Ch.6, Collecting Data, pp. 141-72.

**Weeks 9 & 10 & 11: Writing Introduction**

After approval of the data collected, the students will start writing the Introduction, starting with the introductory brief, tollowed by Key Research Question, Research Questions, Review of the Literature, and Research Methods/Sources for the paper. During this period, they will remain in regular contact with the instructor and will keep him abreast of their work and progress, for the feedback.

**Weeks 12 & 13 & 14: Writing Main Body and Conclusion**

The students will work on the main body (various sections) of their papers, and will keep the instructor informed and involved with their discussions, findings and the conclusion, and will receive the feedback for revision/modification of their write-up.

**Weeks 15 & 16: Finalizing, Editing, Bibliography, and Submission.**

The students will finalize the whole paper, from Introduction to the Conclusion, will check their citations/notes carefully, will edit and proof-read the paper, before its final submission. They will add Bibliography at the end.

**Note:** The citations (notes and bibliography) style is Turabian/Chicago Manual of Style. Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed (Revised by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, and the University of Chicago Press Editorial Staff) (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2013), Ch.16 “Notes-Bibliography Style: The Basic Form” pp. 144-63; and Ch.17, ‘Notes-Bibliography Style: Citing Specific Types of Source’, pp. 164-215.