

**Программа учебной дисциплины «Research Methods and Presentation Skills»**  
Утверждена  
Академическим советом ООП «Компаративистика: русская литература в кросс-культурной перспективе»  
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Число кредитов	4
Контактная работа (час.)	48
Самостоятельная работа (час.)	104
Курс	1
Формат изучения дисциплины	без использования онлайн курса

## 1 Course Description

### a. Title of a Course

Research Seminar “Research Methodology and Presentation Skills”

### b. Pre-requisites

Academic research seminar is a compulsory course for masters’ students and as such does not have any official prerequisites. However, a level of English equivalent to B2 in the Common European Framework of Reference for language (CEFR) is required.

### c. Course Type (compulsory, elective, optional)

Compulsory Master’s Course

### d. Abstract

The course is designed as a research seminar for master's students. Its objective is to discuss the contemporary research methods in the literary studies and humanities, with a focus on the discourse and presentation, and thus enhance the students’ research and presentation skills. The working language is English, which shapes the choice of texts and authors for discussion.

The seminar includes two formats, guest speaker presentations and conventional seminars. Guest speaker presentations are events open to the wider academic public (postgraduate students and professors), on the ongoing research projects and their methods, made by junior as well as prominent scholars in the field, with a discussion to follow.

The regular seminars include reading and discussing pieces of classical as well as cutting-edge research in literary studies and the humanities and presentation of the students’ own research in the light of the methods discussed.

## 2 Learning Objectives

The objectives of the research seminar “Research Methodology and Presentation Skills” are:

- To acquire the knowledge of some cutting-edge methodology used in the literary studies and in the humanities in the international English academic context, juxtaposing it with the classical approaches to the same texts and areas
- To familiarize the students with the bibliographical and electronic resources needed for literary research, to develop their skills of the use of databases with the specific focus on HSE electronic resources
- To develop the students’ research skills, to enhance their work on their research papers
- To enhance the students’ academic English skills, such as academic writing and public presentation skills

## 3 Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, the students should:

- **Know** the major theories and concepts discussed in the course; the main electronic resources relevant to their research area; the main reference styles common in the academic journals in the field
- **Be able to** use the major theoretical concepts in their own research; to use the main electronic resources relevant to their research area
- **Develop skills** of conducting literary research and research in the humanities; of acquiring a theory and using it in their own research; of gathering information: finding, evaluating, and synthesizing both secondary and primary sources; of using digital resources for collecting information and research methodology; of oral and written academic communication in the humanities.

## 4 Course Plan

**Theme 1.** Introduction: Problematising Methodology in the Humanities. Method vs Theory in Literary Studies. Methods in Data-Collection and Bibliographic Search.

**Theme 2.** Romanticism in the Prism of Theories and Methodologies. M.H.Abrams and Tilottama Rajan: case studies.

**Theme 3.** What’s New in the New Historicism? Stephen Greenblatt and Historicism in Literature.

**Theme 4.** Comparative Studies as a Methodological Problem

**Theme 5.** Ecocriticism in Contemporary Literary Studies.

Guest presentation.

Mark Taylor. Evolution and the Novels of D.H. Lawrence: Science as a Context for Literature

**Theme 6.** Postcolonial Theory and Literary Criticism. Postcolonial Theory and Modernism. Postcolonial Theory and the Issues of Translation

**Theme 8.** Digital Technology and Methodology in the Humanities.

**Theme 9.** Presenting Your Research: Public Speaking and PowerPoint. Paper Proposal. Thesis Proposal.

## 5 Reading List

### a. Required

Sprague, Jo, and Douglas Stuart. *The Speaker's Handbook*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed.

Hacker, Diana. *The Bedford Handbook*. Eighth Edition. Bedford/St.Martin's, Boston, New York. – 2010.

### b. Optional

Abrams, Meyer Howard, and Geoffrey Harpham. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. Thomson Learning, 2015. 11<sup>th</sup> ed.

*The New Princeton Handbook of Poetic Terms*. Ed. By T.V.F.Brogan. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton UP, 1994.

Oxford English Dictionary. URL: <http://www.oed.com>

Part of the course is aimed at introducing the methods of work with HSE's electronic resources.

Library.hse.ru

The main focus is:

JSTOR: <https://www.jstor.org/>

Project MUSE: <https://muse.jhu.edu/>

EBSCO: <https://www.ebscohost.com/>

Proquest: [www.proquest.com/](http://www.proquest.com/)

Oxford English Dictionary (OED): [www.oed.com/](http://www.oed.com/)

The main outside resource recommended is: Purdue OWL: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

## 6 Grading System

Type of grading	Type of work	1 <sup>st</sup> year, 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester		Characteristics
		Mod 3	Mod 4	
Current	Paper proposal	1		Proposal of a conference paper based on the student's own research
	Peer-review	1		Peer-review of paper proposal
Midterm	Presentation		1	'Conference' presentation of a paper based on the student's own research
	Research writing		1	A three-page excerpt from an article, developing ideas of the conference paper

## **7 Guidelines for Knowledge Assessment**

The research seminar is mainly based on studying and discussing the methods of literary criticism and the humanities and implementing them in students' own research. Thus, participation becomes the cornerstone for success. In order to get a passing grade, students are required to do their reading and engage in discussion, demonstrating their skills of presentation and public speaking as well as present their own research, focusing on the methods and using specific forms and genres (paper proposal, paper presentation, thesis proposal).

All the works are graded on the 10-point grading scale.

## **8 Methods of Instruktion**

The research seminar embraces two formats, guest speaker presentations and conventional seminars. Guest speaker presentations are events open to the wider academic public (postgraduate students and professors), on the ongoing research projects and their methods, made by junior as well as prominent scholars in the field, with a discussion to follow. The more conventional format of the seminar also relies on class discussions as well as more formal kinds of work, such as paper presentation and reer-reviews.

## **9 Special Equipment and Software Support**

Standard technical equipment (PC+CPr) and requirements, including Wi-Fi access.