

In His Name

Seminar in language teaching issues (MA Program)

Fall 2025

Meeting time: Tuesday, 8:30-10:30 am

Class venue: Room 022, Faculty of Humanities

Professor: Dr. S. Yahya Hejazi Email: hejazi@semnan.ac.ir

Semnan University, Iran

Aims

This course equips students with essential, research-oriented skills to support the preparation of their research proposal and thesis in applied linguistics. In particular, it trains them to locate, evaluate, synthesize, and manage scholarly literature using Scopus and Web of Science (WOS). Additionally, students will become familiarized with how to identify and articulate original, defensible research gaps, and finally design and write clear, ethically sound research proposals and thesis sections/chapters. Emphasizing critical reading, academic writing, research planning, and scholarly practice, this course develops the competencies necessary for conducting rigorous MA-level research in applied linguistics.

Expectations

To ensure a productive and respectful learning environment, students are expected to:

- *Attend all sessions punctually* and remain for the full duration of class, except in cases of legitimate/documented reasons.
- *Actively participate* in discussions, workshops, and peer-review activities, contributing thoughtful insights and respectful feedback.
- *Prepare diligently* by completing assigned readings, tasks, and drafts prior to class sessions.
- *Demonstrate responsibility and professionalism* in all aspects of coursework, including communication with peers and the instructor.
- *Submit assignments on time* and adhere to academic integrity standards, avoiding plagiarism and properly acknowledging sources.
- *Engage critically and respectfully* with diverse perspectives, fostering an inclusive and collaborative seminar atmosphere.
- *Make consistent progress* on their research project, showing initiative in searching, drafting, and revising work.
- *Use feedback constructively* from the instructor and peers to improve the quality of their research and academic writing. Maintain academic honesty and ethical practice in all research activities, in line with university policies.

Grading policy

- Active class participation: 10%
- Presentation(s): 20%
- Term project: 40%
- Final examination: 30%

Tentative schedule

- **Week 1** Introduction to the course
- **Weeks 2 & 3:** Learning how to effectively use Scopus and WOS
- **Weeks 4-6:** Finding a research gap and project assignment
- **Weeks 7-10:** Critically reviewing sample proposals and theses
- **Week 11:** IranDoc workshop in Central Library of Semnan University
- **Week 12:** Learning how to professionally use plagiarism checkers (e.g., iThenticate)
- **Week 13:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) in research
- **Week 14:** Research ethics
- **Weeks 15-17:** Presentations