Spring 2020

Social Sciences Division

American University of Central Asia

**RESEARCH AND WRITING COLLOQUIUM I**

**ANTH-560, SOC, PSY**

Instructor:Cholpon Chotaeva, Doctor of History, Professor

Classes: Tue 17:00, 18:25

Office hours:

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***Course Description***

This course is designed as practical sessions to help students in writing their master thesis. Master thesis is the most important written document submitted to obtain the master degree in social sciences. The Research and Writing Colloquium courses aim to teach students to choose their research topics and formulate their research questions, to write research outlines and conduct literature review, to elaborate their methodology and present their findings, to write the discussion and conclusion chapters. Moreover, it will advise them how to polish, format and edit their theses.

*Research and Writing Colloquium I* aims to help master students with formulating their research topics and research questions, elaborating their methodology, conducting and writing their literature review. The skills and competencies obtained during the course will be highly useful in developing and completing students’ master thesis.

***Course Readings***

All reading materials are available in the e-course. The main book on the course is by Yvonne N. Bui *How to Write a Master Thesis* (Second Edition. Sage Publications, 2014).

***Assignments***

**Attendance - 10%**

Attendance is required. Attendance will be checked in the beginning of each class period. If you are late you will not be allowed to the class. Or, you can attend the class but will get an absence in the attendance list. Each unexcused absence will reduce your attendance grade by 2%.

**Participation – 20%**

Participation means to be actively engaged in the discussion of students’ progress in the class. You must work regularly to be ready to present your research and writing progress during each class period.

**Class Presentation – 20%**

You have to make a presentation on your master thesis progress according to the schedule provided by the instructor. The presentation of 15-20 minutes has to include your research topic, research questions, theoretical framework, methodology and literature review. If you fail to make this presentation, you will lose 20% assigned for it.

**Literature Review – 50%**

The literature review of 20-30 pages has to be submitted by the end of the semester to the e-course. It should include your research topic, research questions, historical background, methodology, theoretical framework and literature review. In case of plagiarism you will receive a zero for the assignment. The delayed papers will be not be accepted and graded.

***Grading System***

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

95-100 = А

90-94 = А-

85-89 = В+

80-84 = В

75-79 = В-

70-74 = С+

65-69 = С

60-64 = С-

55-59 = D+

50-54 = D

45-49 = D-

44 and lower = F

***Course Policy***

**Plagiarism**

***Plagiarism will not be tolerated during the course.*** Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person’s ideas and representing them as your own original work. You must either paraphrase the sentence by putting it completely in your own words and citing it with the proper footnote, endnote or in text citation, or put the quotation marks or make block quotation if you use the direct words of the source without any change with the following footnote, endnote or other citation after the copied words. All information must be cited. Always cite a legitimate source. Wikipedia is not a legitimate source. Books published by university presses and academic papers available on JSTOR can be considered as legitimate sources.

**Deadlines**

Papers must be submitted to the e-course before the deadline. Papers and assignments submittedbeyond the deadline will not be accepted and graded. Deadlines can only be extended upon a prior permission and for medical reasons. Only those late papers with valid or legitimate excuse will be accepted but penalized that of course will affect the final grade for the assignment.

**Appeals**

If you don’t agree with your grade for an assignment or for the course, you must submit a written appeal for the name of the Anthropology Department Chair explaining the reasons of your disagreement. Oral appeals are not considered.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**January 28:**

OVERVIEW OF MASTER THESIS

**February 4-11:**

SELECTING RESEARCH TOPIC AND FORMULATING RESEARCH QUESTION

**February 18:**

ELABORATING METHODOLOGY

**February 25-March 3:**

CONDUCTING LITERATURE REVIEW

**March 10:**

FOLLOWING LEGAL AND ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

**March 17:**

**SPRING BREAK**

**March 24-April 14:**

WRITING LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

**April 21-28:**

Presentations