"Conducting Research in Israel Studies"

(16.2.2030)

Fall Semester, 2024
Tuesday 14:30-16:00

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The objective of this course is to provide the students with basic understanding of the complexities in constructing an academic study, with the goal of establishing proficiencies in reading and constructing a research methodology in Israel Studies. The course will survey the different methodologies in social sciences and will teach how to conduct a research from interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary perspectives. Special attention will be given to the relation between the research method, the research topic, the research questions, the research arguments and context of the study.

Topics to be discussed during the course:

(1) Theory, research and scientific explanation
(2) Israel Studies as Area Studies
(3) Disciplinary, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research
(4) Fundamental concepts in scientific research: of research question, hypotheses, structure of research
(5) Stages of scientific research
(6) Research Methodologies: participant observation, historical analysis, in-depth interviews, content analysis, focus groups, surveys, experiments
(7) Research biases
(8) Ethical questions
Course Requirements:
1. Attendance and participation in classes. Class attendance will not be taken. However, class participation is part of the final grade and you will be expected to include issues discussed during class in the final essay.
2. Reading of the bibliographic items.
3. Each participant must submit five experimental exercises:
   A. Analysis of secondary sources
   B. In-depth interviews
   C. Content analysis
   D. Participant observation
   E. Choosing a research method

Selected Bibliography and class description:

Class 1: Israel Studies as Area Studies

Class 2: Disciplinary, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research

Class 3: Fundamental concepts in scientific research
Class 4: Qualitative and Quantitative analysis

Class 5: Experiments and Surveys

Class 6: Participant observation
Monterescu, Daniel. 2009. "To buy or not to be: Trespassing the gated community." Public Culture 21(2): 403-430.

Class 7: In-depth interviews
Class 8: Historical and Comparative Sociology

Class 9: Content analysis

Class 10: Case Studies

Class 11: Research biases and Ethical questions

Class 12: Choosing a research method