

# SYLLABUS

## REGARDING THE QUALIFICATION CYCLE FROM 2024 TO 2027 ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027

### 1. BASIC COURSE/MODULE INFORMATION

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Course/Module title                                    | Online research methodology            |
| Course/Module code *                                   | KW9                                    |
| Faculty (name of the unit offering the field of study) | College of Humanities                  |
| Name of the unit running the course                    | Institute of Modern Languages          |
| Field of study   | Media, Visual and Social Communication |
| Qualification level                                    | Bachelor's degree                      |
| Profile  | general academic                       |
| Study mode   | full-time                              |
| Year and semester of studies                           | Year 3, semester 5                     |
| Course type  | elective major                         |
| Language of instruction                                | English                                |
| Coordinator  | Dr Donald Trinder                      |
| Course instructor                                      | Dr Donald Trinder                      |

\* - as agreed at the faculty

#### 1.1. Learning format – number of hours and ECTS credits

| Semester (no.) | Lectures | Classes | Laboratories | Seminars | Practical classes | Internships | others | ECTS credits |
|----------------|----------|---------|--------------|----------|-------------------|-------------|--------|--------------|
| 5              |          | 30      |              |          |                   |             |        | 3            |

#### 1.2. Course delivery methods

- conducted in a traditional way

**1.3. Course/Module assessment** (exam, pass with a grade, pass without a grade)  
 - pass with a grade

**2. PREREQUISITES**

|      |
|------|
| none |
|------|

**3. OBJECTIVES, LEARNING OUTCOMES, COURSE CONTENT, AND INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS**

**3.1. Course/Module objectives**

|    |  |
|----|--|
| O1 | To introduce the students to a range of web-based research tools and applications.                                 |
| O2 | To provide the students with the methodology to conduct credible, web-based research.                              |
| O3 | To enhance the critical thinking skills of the students.   |
| O4 | To enhance the reading comprehension skills of the students.   |
| O5 | To raise the awareness of the students in areas such as fake news and unreliable web-based sources of information. |

**3.2. COURSE/MODULE LEARNING OUTCOMES (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE COORDINATOR)**

| <b>Learning Outcome</b> | <b>The description of the learning outcome defined for the course/module</b>   | <b>Relation to the degree programme outcomes</b> |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| LO_01                   | The students formulates clear, focused research questions or objectives that guide the online research process and define the scope of inquiry.  | K_U02  |
| LO_02                   | The student critically evaluates the credibility, reliability, and relevance of online sources, considering factors such as authorship, publication date, peer review, sponsorship, and bias.            | K_U01  |
| LO_03                   | The student demonstrates proficiency in locating, evaluating, and synthesizing information from a variety of online sources, including databases, scholarly journals, websites, and digital repositories | K_U01  |
| LO_04                   | The student presents results clearly and accurately, drawing connections   | K_U07, K_K02                                     |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | between data and research questions, and identifying patterns, trends, or implications |  |
|--|--|--|

### 3.3. Course content (to be completed by the coordinator)

#### B. Classes, laboratories, seminars, practical classes

| Content outline  |
|--|
| Asking the right question - the proper use of basic web browsers |
| The pros and cons of Wikipedia                                   |
| Academic-specific search engines and collections                 |
| Applications to enhance academic writing and research            |
| The use of social media as a source                              |
| Fake news and unverified sources - how to spot them              |
| Busting Conspiracy Theories                                      |
| The [in]correct use of AI in academic research                   |

### 3.4. Methods of Instruction

Teacher-led workshops and classes with elements of collaborative work, individual learning and peer-led seminars  
Content analysis and discussion

## 4. Assessment techniques and criteria

### 4.1 Methods of evaluating learning outcomes

| Learning outcome | Methods of assessment of learning outcomes (e.g. test, oral exam, written exam, project, report, observation during classes) | Learning format (lectures, classes,...) |
|------------------|--|---|
| LO_01            | <i>PROJECT</i>   | CLASSES                                 |
| LO_02            | <i>PROJECT</i>   | CLASSES                                 |
| LO_03            | <i>PROJECT</i>   | CLASSES                                 |
| LO_04            | <i>PROJECT</i>   | CLASSES                                 |

### 4.2 Course assessment criteria

The students will be subject to continual assessment throughout the course, based on their successful completion of tasks and exercises during the classes (maximum of 15 points). Each student will also be expected to complete a practical project to demonstrate the acquisition of the basic skills and methods taught (maximum of 10 points).

Grading scale:

60-68% - 3.0

69-76% - 3.5

77-84% - 4.0

85-92% - 4.5

93-100% - 5.0

**5. Total student workload needed to achieve the intended learning outcomes  
– number of hours and ECTS credits**

| Activity   | Number of hours |
|--|-----------------|
| Course hours   | 30              |
| Other contact hours involving the teacher (consultation hours, examinations)                     | 6               |
| Non-contact hours - student's own work (preparation for classes or examinations, projects, etc.) | 40              |
| Total number of hours  | 76              |
| Total number of ECTS credits   | 3               |

\* one ECTS point corresponds to 25-30 hours of total student workload

**6. Internships related to the course/module**

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Number of hours                       |  |
| Internship regulations and procedures |  |

**7. Instructional materials**

Compulsory literature:

Abbamonte, Kiera. 2020. Conducting High Quality Online Research: Process, Types and Tools. Delegated Press

Gaiser, Ted., & Schreiner, Anthony. 2009. A Guide to Conducting Online Research. SAGE

Stronge, Aideen., Rogers, Wendy., & Fisk, Arthur. Web-Based Search and Retrieval: Effects os Strategy Use and Age on Search Success. [in] Human Factors 48(3)

Complementary literature:

Baidoo-Anu, David. 2023. Education in the Era of Generative AI: Understanding the Potential Benefits of ChatGPT in Promoting Teaching and Learning. [in] Journal of AI 7(1)

Approved by the Head of the Department or an authorised person