# Preliminary Seminar to the MA Thesis

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# – Introduction: setting up a research project and the scope of the study; the scientific-disciplinary areas, congruence with degree programme and study plan.

– Bibliographic research (organised by the University Library).

* 1. University Library: services and Portal, OPAC and *discovery tool*
* 2. Research methodology - basic and advanced. Subject area resources: linguistics and metalinguistics.
* 3. Use of materials: notes on copyright.
* 4.a) The reading list: data and rules. 4.b) Bibliographic managers: *Refworks*.

## – Worksheets on scientific disciplinary sectors

– Research methodology and human science techniques

# – In practice: writing and discussing a degree thesis. Personal project, textual requirements, targets to meet. Argumentative skills.

# Course materials and required reading will be available on the Blackboard platform.

Attendance is highly recommended.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures and instruction on using the university library resources. At the end of the course, students will be able to plan their thesis, identify the question they want to answer and the available data, disciplinary or multidisciplinary context, find the proper bibliographic and documentary resources, orient themselves in the *status quaestionis*, and plan the overall structure of the thesis (with the lecturer’s supervision).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

A data sheet on students’ chosen subject, to be prepared and then handed in to the lecturer one week before the oral exam. Oral exam to assess knowledge of the contents covered in the seminar and of the material available on Blackboard, preceded by an online test on the use of the Library System and the creation of a reading list. This online test will take place the same day of the assessment. The final mark will result from the average between the online test (30%), the data sheet (40%), and the oral assessment (30%).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, students should ideally show curiosity towards a specific topic in order to be able to plan their first personal research project.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.