

## **ENGL 7806/8806: Research Method in Writing**

**Dr. Shiva Mainaly**

### **Course Description:**

How do we study writing, and how do different research methods shape the ways we understand it? This course introduces students to the diverse landscape of research methodologies essential for scholarly inquiry in writing studies, rhetoric, and composition. Designed to deepen both theoretical and practical knowledge, this course provides an opportunity to examine a variety of research traditions, including qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods, alongside newer approaches like digital ethnography, corpus analysis, and community-based research. Through a careful examination of both established and emerging research paradigms, students will develop a sophisticated understanding of how knowledge is constructed, contested, and advanced in our field.

We will pay special attention to how research methods intersect with issues of power, identity, and access, encouraging students to consider how their research might advocate for social justice, inclusivity, positionality, and equity in the world of writing. Whether you plan to pursue academic, pedagogical, or professional research, this course offers a dynamic, holistic introduction to the methods that will inform your work as a scholar of writing. The course emphasizes the interconnected nature of theory, method, and practice, encouraging students to position themselves within ongoing scholarly conversations. Participants will explore a range of approaches, including:

- Ethnographic and autoethnographic research methods
- Historical Research
- Qualitative and quantitative research methods
- Critical discourse analysis
- Data visualization and Coding
- Digital humanities approach to textual analysis
- Archival research methods
- Feminist and decolonial methodologies

Through hands-on projects, students will gain experience in research design, data collection and analysis, and the ethical considerations that inform methodological choices. The course places special emphasis on helping students develop their own researcher identity and voice, culminating in a pilot study that aligns with their scholarly interests.