

Advanced Research Methods and Skills

INTRODUCTION

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What will we do in this course

1. Learn basic research methods and skills
2. Exercise with
 - ▶ writing
 - ▶ reviewing
 - ▶ presentation
 - ▶ discussion
 - ▶ moderating

and help each other to improve these skills.

Organization

Two parts:

1. lectures, theory
2. presentations, review, discussion, moderation
 - ▶ Presentation texts are delivered 72 hours before presentation to the reviewer and to me
 - ▶ reviewers provide a written review, according to a template, 24 hours before presentation, to author and me
 - ▶ moderator organizes presentation meeting, discussion, and guards timing
 - ▶ after a number of presentations, presentation skills are compared and discussed (led by me).

Requirements and grading

Requirement: be present at 80% of the meetings; handing in and presenting a thesis proposal.

Grading is based on (i) quality of proposal and presentation (70%), (ii) active participation (written, oral) (30%).

About *anything* you write...

should contain:

- ▶ author (you), first name, last name
- ▶ other identification/contact issues: student number, affiliation, address, email
- ▶ if relevant: context—what is it? (thesis proposal, course name and number to which it relates)
- ▶ date of writing
- ▶ when relevant: version information

Thesis proposal

Contains:

- ▶ Title, name, date, context
- ▶ Thesis outline
- ▶ Proposed table of contents
- ▶ Proposed time schedule

Thesis outline:

- ▶ something inbetween introduction and abstract: contains references, scientific embedding, context, motivation
- ▶ contains objectives/planned work/results/...
- ▶ should be to-the-point

The thesis proposal might be your final MSc thesis proposal.

Material

Two useful books:

1. Martha Davis, 1997, Scientific Papers and Presentations, Academic Press.
2. Strunk and White, 1979, The elements of Style. Allyn and Bacon.