Advanced Research Methods and Skills

Introduction

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What will we do in this course

Exercise

- writing
- reviewing
- presentation
- discussion

Help each other to improve these skills.
Form: for each meeting

- 2 students prepare a written paper (MSc thesis proposal)
- distributed this by email least 72 hours before we meet
- each of the students comments on this by email to the author and to me, before the meeting
- at the meeting they present it (10 mins), and we discuss both presentation and paper, in terms of contents and presentation skills.

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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

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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

To be efficient, the thesis proposal should be the, or a first stage of, thesis proposal you need to make anyway.

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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.

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