

AMSc Research Methods 2003/04

Module co-ordinator: Jane Reid
E-mail: jane@dcs.qmul.ac.uk

Outline

- Aims of the module
- Schedule and staff
- Assessment
- Further information

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Aims of the module

- To prepare for the summer project
- To teach basic research skills used in pure and applied research in computer science
 - Increase awareness of research resources
 - Foster analytical, critical and reflective skills
 - Raise awareness of the importance of “transferable skills”
 - Introduce the main approaches to computer science research
 - Teach appropriate research methods for these approaches
 - Give relevant, practical experience of applying these methods

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Schedule and staff: overview

- Main slot: Tuesday 10-12, both semesters
- Tutorial slot: Thursday 3-4, both semesters
- Classes in the ITL meeting room, unless otherwise stated
- Format of the course:
 - Weeks 1-3: Transferable skills I
 - Weeks 4-8: Research approaches
 - Weeks 9-12: Transferable skills II
 - Weeks 13-16 (approx): Seminars
 - Weeks 17-24: Project preparation

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Schedule and staff: Transferable skills I

Week 1

Tuesday 10-11 *Introduction* - Jane Reid

Wednesday 11-1 *Information skills* - Kathy Abbott (Library Group Study Room 1, Main Library)

Week 2

Critical reading and argumentation - Graham White

Week 3

Time management skills / presentation skills - Peter McOwan

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Schedule and staff: Research approaches

Week 4

Research approaches: overview - Jane Reid

Weeks 5/6

Research approaches: experimental - Jane Reid / Marie-Luce Bourguet

Week 7

Research approaches: implementational - Thomas Roelleke

Week 8

Research approaches: analytical - Pat Healey

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Schedule and staff: Transferable skills II

Weeks 9-11

Technical writing - Alan Evison, Learning Development and Continuing Education Unit

Week 12

Project talk - Jane Reid

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Schedule and staff: Second semester

Weeks 13-16 (approx)

Seminars

Weeks 17-24

Project: proposal, specification and specification presentation

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Assessment

- Coursework only
 - Practical assignment (in groups) [50%]
 - Hand out: Tuesday 14th October 2003 (week 3)
 - Hand in: Friday 19th December 2003 (week 12)
 - Project: specification [40%]
 - Hand out: Start from second semester (week 13)
 - Hand in: Friday 19th March 2004 (week 22)
 - Project: specification presentation [10%]
 - Tuesday 23rd March 2004 (week 23)
- Other related deadlines
 - Project proposal (not assessed) - Friday 27th February (week 19)

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Further information

- Web page at
<http://www.dcs.qmul.ac.uk/courses/msc/coursenotes/AMC-045/>
- Lecturers for individual lectures / sections
- Course co-ordinator for administrative matters

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