INFORMATICS RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES: COURSE REP REPORT

IAIN WHITESIDE

1. Overview

Overall, IRM was a well-organised and interesting course, which is especially useful for those considering postgraduate studies. The principles taught during the course are also very relevant for undergraduates and Masters students and allowed us to gain a much clearer view of our projects. It gives a clearer view on how to approach a large-scale project. The course lived up to what was expected from the description and all learning outcomes have been achieved.

2. Lectures

The lecture part of the course was well prepared and informative, introducing ideas which would be reinforced during the coursework. The lectures devoted to each coursework item were important and very informative. Guest lectures gave an insight into different areas of Informatics. The choice of room was the only issue, sometimes there would be other students working causing slight disturbance.

3. Coursework

Since the course was 100% assessed through coursework, this was vital. In general, all the coursework was well thought out, relevant and quickly marked. The deadlines were well spaced and realistic. It was thought that more personal feedback, for example on how to improve analysis would have been of benefit. More detailed feedback on the individual items is provided below.

3.1. **Paper Reviews.** The paper reviews helped to hone analysis techniques that proved important for the project analysis coursework. The two from four rule allowed students more freedom to gain good marks and learn from past experiences

3.2. **Presentation.** The presentation coursework was good. The freedom to choose what you want to talk about allows you to broaden your knowledge. The strict timekeeping provides a realistic conference experience.

3.3. **Project Analysis.** The project analysis coursework, though difficult, was well thought out. It allowed students to consider the techniques learned during the course and apply them to research they are familiar with in the form of an analysis. The length expected was just right and plenty of instruction was available to begin.

3.4. **Paper Rewriting.** I had no feedback on this coursework.