

INFORMATICS RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES: COURSE REP REPORT

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1 Overview

The module went generally well, it was well-organized and interesting. The paper review skills and presentation skills gained are especially useful for both kinds students: considering postgraduate studies or not. The principles taught are helpful to get a more comprehensive view of Informatics. It also forms a good preparation for PhD study.

2 Lectures

The lectures were generally of useful content and well presented. The guest lecturers also provided different insights of areas of Informatics. One issue is the guest lecture about Experiments Design & Analysis is a little difficult to understand(a few jargons and math), it might be helpful by providing extra background reading material about this content. The choice of room was the another issue, sometimes there would be other students working causing slight disturbance.

3 Coursework

In general, all the coursework was well thought out, relevant and quickly marked. Personal feedback were also provided, which proves very useful for improving in the following work. The deadlines were well spaced and realistic. More detailed feedback on the individual items is provided below.

3.1 Paper Reviews.

The paper reviews gave the students a really good chance to apply the reading techniques they have learned. It provided opportunities to discover personal reading problems and address them. It also gave the students the understanding of all the mistakes in writing they shouldn't make. Also, the rule that only 2 out of 4 paper reviews were marked was really positive since students had the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and then get good marks in the following reviews.

3.2 Presentation.

The presentation coursework was good. It provided a realistic conference experience. Q&A period provided opportunities for free discussions. The personal feedback is quite useful for future improvement.

3.3 Project Analysis.

As an MSc student, I did not do this coursework, which was only for UG4s.

3.4 Paper Rewriting.

Although this work is quite challenging but well thought out given the feedback on each reviewed paper . The paper rewriting coursework allowed students to consider the techniques learned during the course and apply them to paper production.