

PhD course in Reading, Critiquing, and Writing Research

The purpose of this course is for the participants to become familiar with some of the key aspects of how to craft research—to learn some of the tricks of the trade. The course is built up around the writing a research paper (on a topic of own choosing) ready for publishing. We will use this paper as an outset to look at how to skim, read, and analyze texts and write (peer) reviews. The idea is to have the exercises be specific to the participants individual topics so all course work is roughly work that should be done anyway. Upon completion each participant should have a paper ready to be submitted. Further, participants will have made at least two “peer-reviews” similar to those done for conferences or journals.

The course will run during the fall of 2011 and January 2012 and consist of eight bi-weekly seminars and a substantial amount of work in-between, please prepare for this. Participants should have a topic for a paper upon signing up for the course. Meaning, if the topic is non-theoretical the practical work should lie ahead of the course. If in doubt please contact me. Remember, learning is neither linear nor easy. It will be frustrating and time-consuming, but trust me, it will be worth it and you end up with a publishable paper...

In some of the seminars, we will also have a “Tool moment” where I introduce some tools that can help you in your work. I use Mac so most tools will be for Mac users, but I’ll do my best to find windows equivalent or cross platform tools too.

The plan for the seminars will be as follows, however, they are likely to be changed and adjusted to the participant’s wishes and needs.

LITERATURE (WILL BE UPDATED THROUGHOUT THE COURSE):

Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., & Williams, J. M. (2008). *The Craft of Research*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Sørensen, C. (1994). This is Not an Article - Just Some Thoughts on How to Write One. *17th Information Systems Research Seminar In Scandinavia*, 1, 46-59.

Keshav, S. (2007). How to Read a Paper. *ACM SIGCOMM Computer Communication Review*, 37(3), 83-84.

1ST SEMINAR FINDING A TOPIC – OCTOBER 12TH 2011 13-15 IN ROOM T320B

Preparation:

1. Read Part I & II of Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., & Williams, J. M. (2008). *The Craft of Research*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. (Consider to start at p. 12)
2. Find a topic for your paper.
3. Look for possible places to publish.

During this first seminar we will go through each of your topics and you will do some individual exercises. We will look at your individual experiences and determine possible special elements to address during later seminars. You will also be teamed up in review groups of two or three.

Tool moment: We will briefly look at note taking tools (Scrivener & Evernote).

2ND SEMINAR ABSTRACT & LITERATURE – OCTOBER 26TH 2011 13-15 IN ROOM T320B

Preparation:

1. Read two papers:
 - a. Sørensen, C. (1994). This is Not an Article - Just Some Thoughts on How to Write One. *17th Information Systems Research Seminar In Scandinavia*, 1, 46-59.

- b. Read Keshav, S. (2007). How to Read a Paper. *ACM SIGCOMM Computer Communication Review*, 37(3), 83-84.
2. Give your version of the three points on p. 51 (topic, question, significance) Send it to your group and me two days in advance!
3. Write an abstract (300 words). Send it to your group and me two days in advance!
4. Find one paper relevant for your topic from the venue where you would like to publish. (We will use these for the review exercises later in the course)
5. *Begin literature search for your paper.*

During this seminar we will briefly discuss what constitutes a good abstract before you divide into groups to give each other feedback on your abstracts.

The second part of the seminar will be about literature search. We will look at ways to find relevant literature for your paper. We will also briefly talk about how to skim a paper to determine relevancy.

Tool moment: We will look at literature database programs to keep track of what you have read and reference them correctly (Bookends, Reference manager, Zotero).

3RD SEMINAR READING A PAPER – NOVEMBER 9TH 2011 13-15 IN ROOM T320B

Preparation:

1. Read: Part III of Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., & Williams, J. M. (2008). *The Craft of Research*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
2. Read the two example papers (found in "Example papers" folder)
3. *Continue literature search.*

During the seminar we deconstruct the example papers. We will look at their arguments, their structure, how their claims are backed up etc.

We will go through some common review criteria.

Tool moment: We will briefly look at tools for reading aid.

4TH SEMINAR WRITING A REVIEW NOVEMBER 23RD 2011 13-15 IN ROOM T320B

Preparation:

1. Read three of the papers provided by your course mates (which, will be specified later)
2. Write a comprehensive review (one page) of one of them based on the common criteria and send it to me two days in advance.

During the seminar we will read the reviews for each paper and discuss them.

We will then look at your abstracts again. At this point you should have found and read the background literature you intend to use for your paper.

5TH SEMINAR PAPER: INTRODUCTION – DECEMBER 7TH 2011 13-15 IN ROOM T320B

Preparation:

1. Read Part IV of Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., & Williams, J. M. (2008). *The Craft of Research*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
2. Write an introduction to your paper. Draw your argument.

During the first part of the seminar you will in groups give each other feedback on your introductions.

Secondly, we will talk about the practice of writing, writers block, and bootstrapping strategies.

Tool moment: We will look at grammatical and dictionary tools (Grammarian, Visual Thesaurus etc.). As well as The Phrase Book for Writing Papers and Research

6TH SEMINAR WRITE THE FIRST DRAFT OF YOUR PAPER – DECEMBER 21ST 2011 13-15 IN ROOM T320B

Preparation:

1. Write a first draft of your paper (schedule this as a one week full-time workload)
2. Make it readable for a reviewer, meaning write what you intend to write in the sections you haven't yet written.
3. Send your draft (including explanations) to your group and me three days in advance.

During the first part of the seminar you will in groups give each other feedback on your drafts.

Afterwards we will go through some of the common challenges together.

Tool moment: We will look at different reference styles (Chicago, ACM, etc.)

7TH SEMINAR WRITE THE SECOND DRAFT OF YOUR PAPER – JANUAR 18TH 2012 **13-16:30 IN ROOM T320B**

Preparation:

1. Write a second draft of your paper (schedule this as a one week full-time workload)
2. Make it readable for a reviewer, meaning write what you intend to write in the sections you haven't yet written.
3. Send your draft (including explanations) to your group and me three days in advance.

In a joint session we will give you feedback on your drafts. We will do it together where your group will take the lead in the feedback and the others and I will join in.

Afterwards, you can continue to use your groups as feedback groups for future works.