



**University of
Nottingham**

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COMP 4037 **Research Methods** (Spring 2019-20)

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Hello and welcome to COMP4047

Today's learning outcomes

- By the end of this lecture you should know:

- What this module is about

- Where and when it takes place

- What topics it covers

- Coursework requirements

- Coursework content

- Coursework deadlines and when marks will be returned

This module is compulsory for PGT students in the School of Computer Science

But before we dig in ...

Who are we?

- Julie Greensmith ...

- Andy Crabtree

Professor of Computer Science but a sociologist

Specialise in 'qualitative' methods (ethnography)

Over 20 years doing research in computer science

So what's the module about?

Research methods

- Yes, we'll be looking at some methods commonly used in computer science research
- But more importantly we'll be doing so as a part of getting your MSc project's up and running
- This module is really a primer for your summer projects
 - That's 60 credits, so worth paying attention

What's happening, where and when [1]

Lectures

- 10, 1-hour lectures
- Monday mornings, 11.00-12.00
- Venue: (here) A25, Business School South, Jubilee Campus
- Running from 27 January to 30 March

What's happening, where and when [2]

Workshops

- 10, 2-hour workshops
- Tuesday, 11.00 – 13.00
- Venue: A32, Computer Science Building, Jubilee Campus
- Running from 28 January to 31 March

Module details [1]

Lectures

- Introduction and overview of module (27 Jan)
- PGT project overview (3 Feb)
- Scientific methodologies (10 Feb)
- Quantitative methods (17 Feb)
- Qualitative methods (24 Feb)

Module details [2]

Lectures continued

- Design research methods (2 March)
- Reading research papers (9 March)
- Technical writing (16 March)
- Plagiarism and citing research (23 March)
- Research ethics (30 March)

Module details [3]

Workshops

- Coursework 1 primer (28 Jan)
- Groupwork on coursework 1 (4 Feb)
- What is research? Discussion + panel (11 Feb)
- Statistics lab (18 Feb)
- Qualitative lab: doing interviews (25 Feb)

Module details [4]

Workshops

- Design groupwork: design a smart device (3 March)
- Active reading: making notes (10 march)
- Writing a literature review (17 March)
- Q&A on plagiarism and citation (23 March)
- Run through compulsory ethics forms (31 March)

Module details [5]

Module administration

- All resources will be on Moodle
 - Slides and supporting information
 - Coursework templates, etc.
- Plus coursework submission and return of marks
 - <https://moodle.nottingham.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=94612>

Coursework requirements

A **9,000 word** portfolio consisting of 3 pieces of coursework

- Coursework 1. 3,000 word report (20% of total mark)
- Coursework 2. 5,000 word report (60% of total mark)
- Coursework 3. 1,000 word report (20% of total mark)

Changes to coursework requirements

With your consent we may reduce the size of the portfolio

- We propose the following changes:
 - Coursework 1. 1,000 word report (20% of total mark)
 - Coursework 2. 1,000 word report (20% of total mark)
 - Coursework 3. 2,000 word report (60% of total mark)These changes will reduce the portfolio from 9,000 words to 4,000 words
- Do you agree with the proposed changes?
 - Does anyone not agree with the proposed changes and want to do 9,000 words (it will not improve your marks by default)?

Coursework content

What you have to do ...

- Coursework 1. Find a project and a supervisor
(1,000 report, 20% of total mark)
- Coursework 2. Draft a project proposal
(1,000 word report, 20% of total mark)
- Coursework 3. Draft a literature review for your project
(2,000 word report, 60% of total mark)

Coursework deadlines and marking

Dates

- Submission of coursework

The entire portfolio consisting of 3 pieces of coursework must be submitted on Moodle by **16.00 Thursday 2 April 2020**

- Return of marks

Marks will be returned via Moodle within 15 working* days of the submission deadline by **16.00 Thursday 27 April 2020**

- Late submission

Will be treated in accordance with University regulations (-5% per day*)

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/assessmentandawards/penalties-for-late-submission-of-assessed-coursework.aspx>

Unless extenuating circumstances apply

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices/services/extenuating-circumstances.aspx>

Coursework 1 starts now!

Finding a project and a supervisor

- We'll go through what you need to do in more detail in tomorrow's workshop
- But the gist of it is to find a project to do and a member of staff to supervise you in doing it

Staff have posted their project proposals online and you can access them here: <https://moodle.nottingham.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=96668>

- Your report will detail:

The projects you have considered and why

The supervisors you have talked to and what the outcomes were

Your next steps

Learning outcomes revisited

You should now know:

- What this module is about
- Where and when it takes place
- What topics it covers
- Coursework requirements
- Coursework content
- Coursework deadlines and when marks will be returned
- What you have to do for coursework 1
- Does anyone have any questions?

What's next

The first workshop

- When: Tomorrow (Tuesday), 11.00 – 13.00
- Venue: A32, Computer Science Building, Jubilee Campus
- Topic: coursework 1