

Research Methods in Computing

(COMP09092)

Lecture 7

Coursework Advice and Help

Coursework Submission:

I will set up **DRAFT Turnitin link in Moodle** to test coursework for potential plagiarism

If it shows up as high on Turnitin then you can **fix it before the final submission**

I will set up a **Turnitin link for final coursework** submissions – don't confuse the two links

Coursework

Part 1 - Title/Aims/Objectives (15 marks)

This should include:

- Title and clear, concise, well written **Abstract**
- **Abstract** should be around 200-250 words in length and provide an overview of report
- Clear, well-structured aims and objectives that make clear what the purpose of the proposed project is

Coursework

Part 1 - Title/Aims/Objectives (15 marks)

- Clear reasoning and rationale for the choice of the chosen proposed research area in terms of its relevance and importance
- Highlight any potential ethical considerations that might need to be addressed

Coursework

Producing Aims and Objectives:

- Your aims and objectives should be clear, succinct and unambiguous - should also be brief and concise
- Your aims and objectives must be realistic in terms of what you can achieve within the context of an Hons Project

Coursework

Producing Aims and Objectives:

- Your objectives should relate to your aim and you should ensure that each objective is distinct and they do not merely repeat another using different terms
- Number of objectives so that they are clear and distinct

Coursework

Justifying your Research Proposal:

- What is the reason for choosing your topic? Is this reason valid, reliable and justifiable?
- Does the topic provide enough scope to work at a suitable academic level?
- Why is research on this topic needed?

Coursework

Justifying your Research Proposal:

- Answer the “So What?” question
- How can your idea add to existing knowledge?
- Why is the proposed research useful and worthwhile?
 - Does it fill a gap in current knowledge?
 - Does it extend existing understanding?
 - Does it help better understand practice?

Coursework

Part 2 - Literature/Technical Review/Background (50 Marks)

This section should provide a detailed introduction to the proposed research area in terms of:

- How the area has evolved and developed
- Key concepts underpinning area
- What the major milestones and turning points have been in its evolution and development

Coursework

Part 2 - Literature/Technical Review/Background (50 Marks)

- Relevant key approaches, techniques underpinning the area
- What the key issues, weaknesses, problems, research themes, possible research questions that have been identified through the relevant academic and/or technical/business related literature.

Coursework

Developing Research Question(s):

- Should be relevant
- Should be workable and allow for collection of the required data over the time period of an Hons Project
- Should be well formulated, credible and easy to understand

Coursework

Developing Research Question(s):

- Should be specific and defensible
- Should lead to research that extends or adds to existing knowledge
- Should be consistent with the requirements of your programme and module

Coursework

Part 2 - Literature/Technical Review/Background (50 Marks)

Areas that can be included:

- Defining appropriate terms and concepts that underpin the proposed research area
- Providing a clear academic underpinning to the proposed research area that makes clear and appropriate use of relevant references to justify and illustrate points

Coursework

Part 2 - Literature/Technical Review/Background (50 Marks)

- Providing coverage of relevant previous relevant research and work undertaken in the area
- Providing basis for identifying and clarifying research questions/research themes relevant to the area in order to construct a clear argument for the proposed research

Coursework

Part 2 - Literature/Technical Review/Background (50 Marks)

- Back up points that you make, e.g. Surname (year) of key authors in main text
- Look for articles on Google Scholar – use different key words
- For work in HCI/web/app areas look at nngroup.com/articles/ for useful articles

Coursework

Part 2 - Literature/Technical Review/Background (50 Marks)

- This part should demonstrate an ability to find appropriate and relevant academic and non-academic literature references/sources relevant to the proposed area of research and correctly use Harvard style referencing in the report

Coursework

Part 2 - Literature/Technical Review/Background (50 Marks)

- This part is worth 50% of the marks so should be an substantial part of the coursework
- Don't use first person – i.e. “I”

Coursework

Part 3 - Proposed Research Methodology / Development Approach (35 marks)

Depending on the type of proposed research area this can cover areas such as:

- Proposed research methodology giving reasons for choice and use of relevant references to justify your choice
- Details of any organisations and stakeholders that might be engaged with as part of the research proposal

Coursework

Part 3 - Proposed Research Methodology / Development Approach (35 marks)

Depending on the type of proposed research area this can cover areas such as:

- Areas covered could include qualitative research, quantitative research mixed methods
- Discussion of proposed use of appropriate research techniques such as interviews, questionnaires, focus groups, observation etc

Coursework

Part 3 - Proposed Research Methodology / Development Approach (35 marks)

Depending on the type of proposed research area this can cover areas such as:

- Laboratory/experimentation/simulation type research
- Approaches to capturing and measuring simulations
- Use of appropriate references should be provided to justify choices

Coursework

Part 3 - Proposed Research Methodology / Development Approach (35 marks)

For more development type project proposals:

- Discussion of the approach that is being adopted in relation to design and areas such as user requirements
- Some consideration should also be made in relation to the evaluation and selection of appropriate platforms/approaches on which to develop the proposed prototype

Coursework

Part 3 - Proposed Research Methodology / Development Approach (35 marks)

For more development type project proposals:

- Relevant approaches to development should be covered for example, Prototyping, Rapid Application Development, Agile Methods etc should be provided
- Use of appropriate references should be provided to justify choices

Coursework

- Should include references in Harvard style of referencing – see handouts on Moodle
- If use figures, tables, screen shots from elsewhere then don't forget to source where you got them from
- Should be Figure Number: Title (Source:)
- Look at example coursework to get an idea of format and structure

Coursework

- The report should contain work of sufficient detail and be between 3000-3500 words of main body text as a guide
- Student can go over the suggested word count but this should add value to the work rather than providing unnecessary detail
- Any problems/issues/queries use the drop-in coursework help/support sessions before the submission date

Coursework

- Feel free to complete the coursework before the submission date – gets it ‘out of the way’
- Once coursework completed, if staying on to Hons year – start thinking about possible supervisor and approach them before you depart for the summer
- If you are staying on to Hons Year, the more work you get done before September the easier it will be – stand more chance of getting high 2/1 or 1st Class Hons

Coursework

- There are lots of example courseworks posted up on Moodle
- Look at these to get an idea as to research areas, overall structure of the coursework etc
- Don't copy them and they are not perfect examples – you can probably spot areas of weakness and areas not addressed as well as they could have been in some examples

Coursework

- If staying on to Hons Year talk to potential supervisors as well as get your programme leader / year leader to look over your idea to see if it is suitable for your programme at Hons level
- Use the summer months to fine tune and further develop your Hons Project idea with a potential supervisor
- You can use material from this report for your Hons Project – but hopefully in an improved and expanded form