

# Syllabus

Research seminar (1<sup>st</sup> year)

(3 ECTS)

Approved by  
Academic Council  
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Minutes 05122017/AC1

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## 1. Course Description

The course is delivered to master students of The National Research University Higher School of Economics. It is delivered in one module. The course length is 114 academic hours in total of which 32 hours are class room hours for lectures and seminars and 82 hours are devoted to self study.

### a. Pre-requisites

- Basics of scientific research design and methodology;
- Analytical abilities and critical thinking;
- Approved topic for term paper;
- Successful completion of the course “Research Methods for STP”.

### b. Abstract

The course is delivered to the first year master students of the Master Program ‘Governance of Science, Technology and Innovation’ at the National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE). The course length is 114 academic hours in total of which 32 are classroom hours and 82 hours are devoted to self-study. The course is designed to help students to foster their work on research projects and develop term papers.

The course is divided into two blocks. The first includes seminars discussing research project planning and implementation, enhancing of academic writing quality and presentation abilities. The second block is a series of seminars fully dedicated to individual work-in-progress presentations.

The academic control is based on two written tests and an examination.

## **2. Learning Objectives**

- To discuss main challenges and difficulties in preparation and implementation students' research projects;
- To develop students' academic writing abilities;
- To consider how to organize and present research results;
- To train students' analytical and critical thinking abilities.

## **3. Learning Outcomes**

As a result of the course students will be able:

- To write introduction, methodology and results sections, which meet all the requirements to these elements of academic paper;
- To write high quality academic texts;
- To create proper academic presentation and to communicate research results correctly.

## **4. Course Plan**

### **Topics:**

- Introduction to the course
- Main challenges and difficulties in preparation and implementation of research project
- Writing academic text: structure, key elements and features
- Presentation of research results: the specificity of work-in-progress reporting
- Work-in-progress presentations

### **Programme Content**

#### **Topic 1. Introduction to the course**

- Basic guidelines and requirements of the course
- Schedule and deadlines
- Education control
- Criteria for written papers and presentations evaluation

#### **Topic 2. Main challenges and difficulties in preparation and implementation of research project**

Discussion with students their current difficulties in

- Planning and preparation of research project
- Implementation of research project
- Working with supervisor

#### **Topic 3. Writing academic text: structure, key elements and features**

Main goals, principles of writing, types, features and key elements for the following sections of academic text:

- Title, abstract, introduction, discussion and conclusion
- Literature review and references
- Methodology and findings

#### **Topic 4. Presentation of research results: the specificity of work-in-progress reporting**

- Planning of academic speech
- Organization of presentation, its main parts
- Practical training of work-in-progress presentations

#### **5. Reading List**

##### **a. Required**

- NRU HSE ISSEK (2015) Requirements for Course Work / Master Thesis. URL: <https://www.hse.ru/data/2016/05/12/1128936986/General%20requirements%20for%20Course%20work%20and%20Master%20thesis.pdf>
- NRU HSE ISSEK (2015) Assessment Sheet – Course Work / Master Thesis. URL: <https://www.hse.ru/data/2016/01/18/1135143384/Appendix.pdf>
- Cargill M. and O'Connor P. (2013) Writing Scientific Research Articles: Strategy and Steps // John Wiley & Sons, Incorporated, pp. 43-73 [http://www.idemployee.id.tue.nl/G.W.M.rauterberg/lecturenotes/2009-Writing\\_Scientific\\_Research\\_Articles.pdf](http://www.idemployee.id.tue.nl/G.W.M.rauterberg/lecturenotes/2009-Writing_Scientific_Research_Articles.pdf)
- Organizing Your Social Sciences Research Paper: Research Guide. University of Southern California. <http://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide>
- Leburn, J. (2007) Scientific writing: a reader and writer's guide // World Scientific Publishing, London. <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=312349>
- Elliott P.J and Louise E.B. (2002) Scientific Writing: Easy When You Know How // BMJ Books <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=233099>
- Mandel S. (2000) Presentation Abilities: A Practical Guide to Better Speaking. URL: <http://cengagesites.com/academic/assets/sites/Axzo/1418889121pv.pdf>
- Alley M. (2003) The Craft of Scientific Presentations. Critical Steps to Succeed and Critical Errors to Avoid. NY: Springer. <https://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2251/toc.aspx?bookid=16294>
- Glasser S.P. (2008) Presentation Abilities: How to Present Research Results. In: Glasser S.P. (eds) Essentials of Clinical Research. Springer, Dordrecht <https://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2184/book/10.1007%2F978-1-4020-8486-7>

##### **b. Optional**

- Katz M.J. (2009) From Research to Manuscript: A Guide to Scientific Writing // Springer Netherlands <https://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2184/book/10.1007%2F1-4020-4071-7>
- Brookshire R. H. and Brundage S. B. (2013) Writing Scientific Research in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Plural Publishing <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=4591662>

- Aveyard, H. (2014) Doing a Literature Review in Health and Social Care. A Practical Guide // Open University Press, London. <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=771406>
- Kallet, R. H. (2004) How to Write the Methods Section of a Research Paper // Respiratory Care, Vol. 49, pp. 1229-1232.
- Fox B.H. and Jennings W.G. (2014) How to Write a Methodology and Results Section for Empirical Research // Journal of Criminal Justice Education Vol. 25, No. 2, pp. 137-156. <http://rc.rcjournal.com/content/49/10/1229.short>
- Anholt RRH (2005) Dazzle'em with style: the art of oral scientific presentation. 2nd Ed. Boston, MA: Elsevier Academic Press. <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=270284>
- Kenney P (1982) A handbook of public speaking for scientists and engineers. CRC Press.
- Communicating Science: Giving Talks. 2nd Ed. Burroughs Wellcome Fund; 2012. <http://www.bwfund.org/pages/361/Career-Development-Guide---Communicating-Science--Giving-Talks/>.

## 6. Grading System

Final grade = 20% Test (1) + 20% Test (2) + 60% Exam

Final grade is given following ten-point system:

### Summary Table: Correspondence of ten-point to five-point system's marks

Ten-point scale [10]	Five-point scale [5]
1 – unsatisfactory 2 – very bad 3 – bad	Unsatisfactory – 2
4 – satisfactory 5 – quite satisfactory	Satisfactory – 3
6 – good 7 – very good	Good – 4
8 – nearly excellent 9 – excellent 10 – brilliant	Excellent – 5

After summing up the points for all the control forms, final grade will be rounded up (calculated for student).

## 7. Course Assignments

Course assignments can be given during seminars and lectures, as well as for home preparation. Class assignments refer to regular reading of the assigned material before a lecture as well as to participation in the general discussions and group work during the lectures.

## 8. Examination Type

Examination is organized in a form of work-in-progress presentation. Each student has to give a 10 – 15 minutes presentation on work-in-progress for his/her term paper research project. The

key elements of methodology, the main research steps already taken and preliminary results need to be presented. Presentation is followed by a Q&A session. For evaluation, three elements are considered: 1) meeting the deadlines indicated in approved research plan; 2) presentation (as an oral speech) and 3) responding to questions and comments from peers and faculty members. Work-in-progress is graded by a commission of at least two faculty members involving supervisor and a second independent faculty member.

## **9. Methods of Instruction**

The students can consult the professor (course director) anytime by email, as well as agree with him on a personal meeting at the same building, where the course is delivered.

## **10. [HSE Library E-resources](#)**

All required and optional literature for the course is available through HSE Library E-resources.

## **11. Software Support, including Open-Source Database Software**

- Microsoft Windows 7 Professional RUS: internal university network (agreement)
- Microsoft Windows 10: internal university network (agreement)
- Microsoft Windows 8.1 Professional RUS: internal university network (agreement)
- Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010: internal university network (agreement)

## **12. Special Equipment**

Classrooms for lectures provide proper use and presentations of particular topics, specifically:

- PC with internet access and office software or laptop
- multimedia projector
- screen
- flipchart