

Research Methods

Year I, MA

BMNAN01600A

## THE CRAFT OF RESEARCH

course description

Reuss Gabriella, PhD

**Double Class:** Wednesday 10.15-11.45, 12.30-14.00 Tárogató út 2-4

**Office hour:** Monday, 11:45-12:30 Tárogató út 2-4 Room 040

**Further information:** at my site,

<https://sites.google.com/site/reussgabriellaphd/home?pli=1>, also via email, [reuss.gabriella@btk.ppke.hu](mailto:reuss.gabriella@btk.ppke.hu)

**Purpose:** Obtaining experience in mechanisms and methods of research and presentation.

**Methods:** individual and co-operative

**Requirements and evaluation:**

- active participation in class, preparation of home assignments 15%
- 2 individual research blogposts (review and lit review) during the term 35%
- either a 1000 word scholarly paper (with your peer) 35 % or
- a 500 word long Wikipedia entry in English and in Hungarian (with your peer) 35%
- weekly comments during the term on your peer's paper 15%

**Principles of grading and attendance:** 3 classes can be skipped without consequences (punishment here is the loss of fun at classes), after 4 classes missed, the fine is plus one entry/post, if five, the grade can only be a one. The grade will be reduced (one mark each time) if you miss the submission deadlines.

### Reading list:

**For blogging and commenting on blogging:**

Niel Patel: "How To Write A Blog Post" <http://www.quicksprout.com/2009/07/21/how-to-write-a-blog-post/>

ProfHacker's policy for comments at: <http://chronicle.com/section/About-ProfHacker/439/#guidelines>

Grammargirl: "How to Write a Great Blog Comment" at

<http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/how-to-write-a-blog-comment.aspx>

An interesting collection of fine student blogs: <http://www.hastac.org/blogs/cathy-davidson/forum-authorship-and-peer-review-online>

### **Coursebook**

Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. 2nd ed. Chicago-London: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

	Class Material	Home Assignment - comment electronically + print it for class use
1.	<p>10. Feb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Introduction to the course</b></li> <li>• “web 2.0,” “cloud computing,”</li> <li>• <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud_computing">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud_computing</a></li> <li>• ppt</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLIgopyXT_g">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLIgopyXT_g</a></li> <li>• <b>Choose</b> a partner for reviewing</li> <li>• Dene Barnett’s book (ppt/part photocopied) criticised by M T Schneider (photocopies)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Read <i>The Craft of Research</i> pp. 9-32.</b> Prepare 3 questions or observations that you can make use of as a researcher. Also points that you disagree with.</p> <p><b>Gather</b> techniques that you have used or may use for brainstorming ideas.</p> <p><b>Pick your research question</b> for your future topic</p>
2.	<p>17. Feb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research plans discussed</li> <li>• <i>Craft of Research</i> discussed</li> <li>• <b>From topic to question to problem</b></li> <li>• Choosing a topic, techniques etc, check if it exists in Wikipedia</li> <li>• Specify your needs, your audience, your genre, your method, your purpose → time management, <b>research plan</b></li> <li>• Finding books - Selecting keywords</li> </ul>	<p><b>Gather</b> information about Google Notes, Documents, Zotero, Dropbox, Microsoft OneNote Web App</p> <p><b>Create</b> Zotero, Dropbox, Google, Microsoft accounts.</p> <p><b>Put together</b> your bibliography and use Zotero for this.</p>
3.	<p>24. Feb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Archiving and Sharing information</b></li> <li>• Digital technology in archiving, introducing Google Notes, Documents, Zotero, Dropbox, Microsoft OneNote Web App:</li> <li>• Evaluating and recording results</li> <li>• Wiki entries discussed</li> <li>• Finding too theoretical / too practical / non-academic sources. Finding too much / too little.</li> <li>• <b>Review</b></li> <li>• <b>Literature review</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Read <i>The Craft of Research</i> pp. 75-108</b></p> <p><b>Prepare</b> 3 questions or observations that you can make use of as a researcher. Also points that you disagree with.</p> <p><b>Recall</b> the ways you make notes, present these considering their profitability</p>

4.	<p>2 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gathering Information</b> (types of sources, search engines, databases)</li> <li>• <b>Make a gap. Locate yourself within the discourse.</b></li> <li>• Reading critically. Writing analytically.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Write</b> a lit review post related to your research</p>
5.	<p>9. March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lit Review</b> - posts discussed</li> <li>• <b>Identifying further research. Disclaimer.</b></li> <li>• <b>Special methods: finding the appropriate paradigm/medium/genre.</b></li> <li>• Conventions / traditions of a particular paradigm/ medium / genre</li> </ul>	<p><b>Read</b> <i>The Craft of Research</i> pp. 119-149. Prepare 3 questions or observations that you can make use of as a researcher. Also points that you disagree with.  <b>Write</b> a review post about a source related to your research</p>
6.	<p>16. March <b>NO CLASS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review posts discussed online</b></li> <li>• <b>Narrowing down your topic - finalize research question</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Finalise your posts 1-2 → EDzine</b>  <b>Read</b> <i>The Craft of Research</i> pp. 185-205.  <b>Write up</b> a first, scholarly draft: both in English and in Hungarian 1000 words and bring it to class in a printed version</p>
7.	<p><b>23 March Spring break</b></p>	
8.	<p><b>30 March Spring break</b></p>	
9.	<p>6 April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Responding to a first draft</b>, suggesting ways to clarify the structure with a checklist.</li> <li>• Developing your own first draft according to the suggestions</li> </ul>	<p><b>Read</b> <i>The Craft of Research</i> pp. 208-238.  <b>Write up</b> a final scholarly draft and bring it to class in a printed version  <b>Prepare</b> a checklist that you can use for evaluating a paper.</p>
10.	<p>13 April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Responding to a final scholarly paper</b>, suggest ways to develop it with a checklist.</li> <li>• Develop your paper according to the suggestions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reduce</b> the text into a 500 word-long paper for a wider readership.  <b>Read</b> <i>The Craft of Research</i> pp 263-283. Prepare a checklist that you can use for evaluating a paper.</p>
11.	<p>20 April</p>	<p><b>Write up</b> the final version of the wiki</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Responding to a wiki article</b>, suggest ways to clarify the structure with a checklist.</li> <li>• Develop your own wiki article according to the suggestions.</li> </ul>	article and hand it in for evaluation. <b>Gather</b> information about presentation applications e.g. Powerpoint, Prezi etc
12.	27 April <b>NO CLASS</b> Prepare a set of principles why a good presentation works. Discuss these online.	<b>Prepare a presentation</b> for the wiki entry.
13.	4 May <b>Showtime</b> Presentations, question-answer period, evaluation of another presentation.	<b>Compose</b> a written evaluation of another <b>pair's</b> overall work: wiki article and presentation
14.	11 May <b>Conclusion</b> . Feedback. Grades. 😊	<b>posts and wiki entries going online</b> 😊