



PGCW Semester Seminars

for Postgraduate Coursework Students

Semester 1, 2010

4.10 pm – 5.30 pm

Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library

Wed 31 March Developing Your Proposal

The process of developing your research proposal can be a valuable exercise, one which can help you to determine your focus, clarify what is involved in your project, and plan its development. A well developed proposal is an important way to save valuable research time and energy, and to be able to effectively communicate your topic to an academic audience. A research proposal is often a requirement of scholarship and grant applications.

Wed 21 April Critical Reading

Critical reading involves understanding the content of a text, as well as how the subject matter is developed. Critical reading takes in the facts, but goes further by asking questions such as: Is the source credible? Does the content offer examples as evidence? Is the text successful in achieving its purpose? Critical readers are able to infer what the text as a 'whole' means, and how it fits within a field of knowledge.

Wed 28 April Thesis Direction & Structure

Every thesis must have a clear direction, an 'original contribution to knowledge' which fits clearly with the current state of knowledge in the discipline. The structure will then develop logically from this key argument, but the structure may also be influenced by conventions in your discipline.

Wed 5 May Clearer Academic Writing

Many factors contribute to the formality or informality of a text. Major influences include the degree to which academic language, academic structures and academic conventions are used. Irrespective of the discipline or type of text you write, the same conceptual academic requirements and demands for rigour should apply.

For further information contact:

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