

Criteria for the Research Methods course

main criterion	weigh	keywords	comments
line of reasoning	25	clarity of problem, goal, proposed solution, rationale, research questions	this forms the core of the research and the paper
literature	25	relevance of papers, quality of description and discussion, coverage of research questions, correctness of citations	they should have explored the literature so much that they are ready to execute the research itself. New insights during the execution may result in more reading during the execution.
research design	15	applicability and feasibility of research design, clarity of description	the research design should be good enough to start. In practice, this will evolve during execution, when reality of data collection and analysis hits them. Research design should touch upon ethics, data management, and validity concerns, as far as relevant
academic writing	15	language spelling, grammar, style, readability and quality from reviewer and reader perspective	this paper is training them in academic writing. Supervision on this aspect and feedback on the final paper is essential to allow them to produce a good final paper
overall coherence and consistency	20	connection between elements above, does the whole paper and proposed project make sense, the abstract should capture this in 100 to 150 words	the overall coherence is a main challenge. It is easy to get lost in the individual elements. This criterion reflects whether they really understand their research project.
total	100		