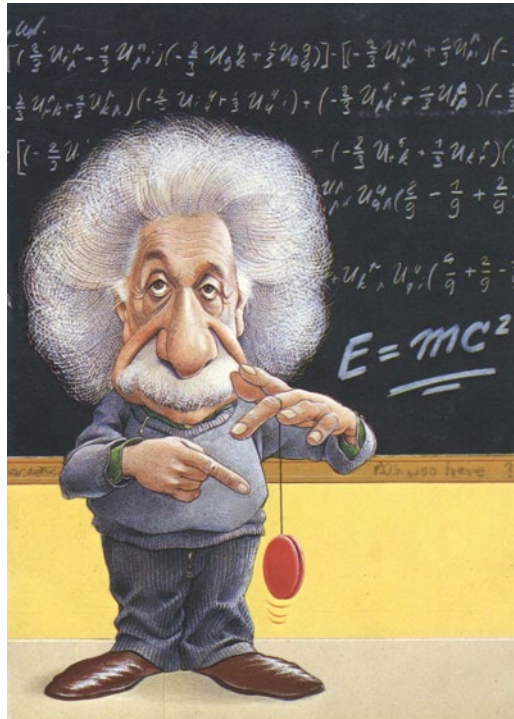


Research Methodologies

Designing your own research

Course Introduction

Dr. ir. Gillian Saunders-Smiths



Source:
www.einsteinstheorieen.nl/

*If we **knew** what it was we were **doing**, it **would not** be called **research**, **would it?***

Albert Einstein

Aim of the course

- A research-driven preparation for the MSc thesis



Source:

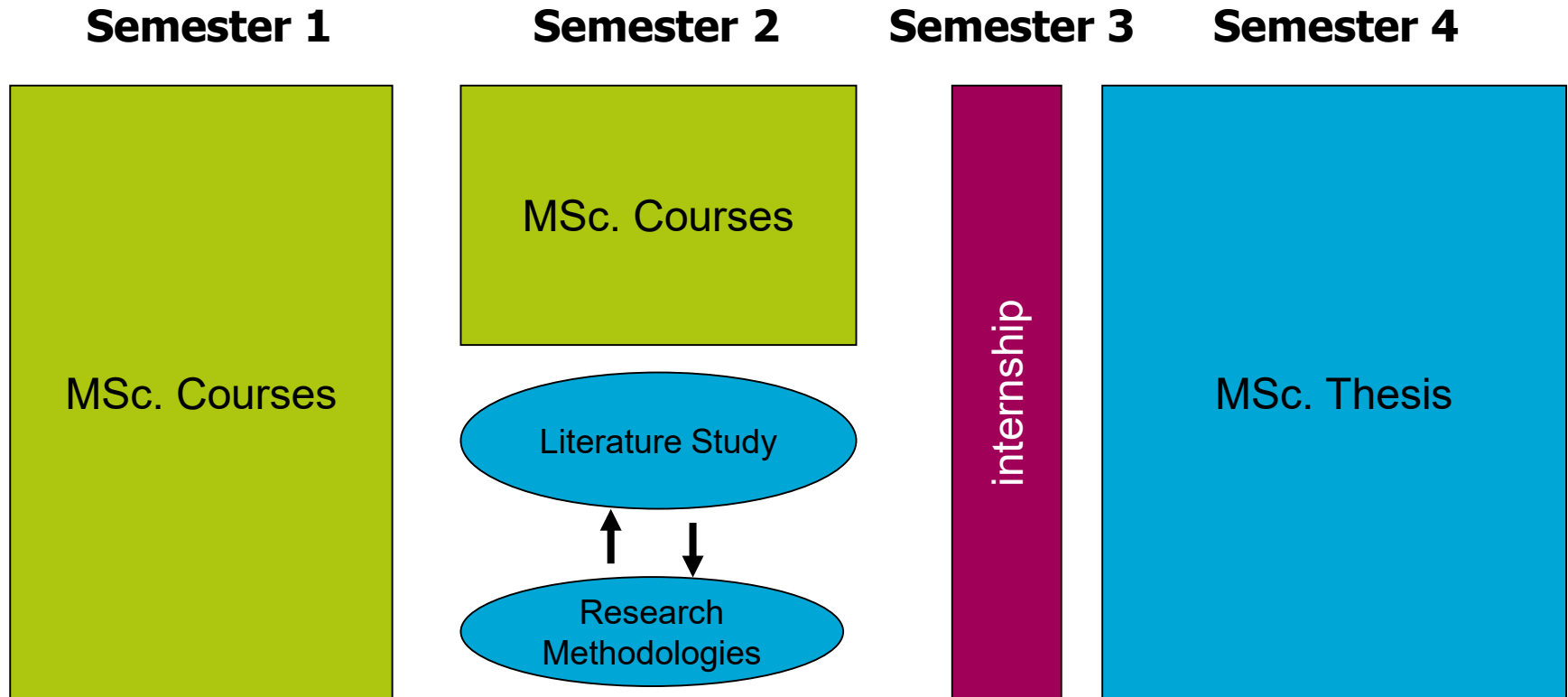
<http://www.gnurf.net/v3/portfolio/graduation-thesis-angst.html>

Learning Objectives

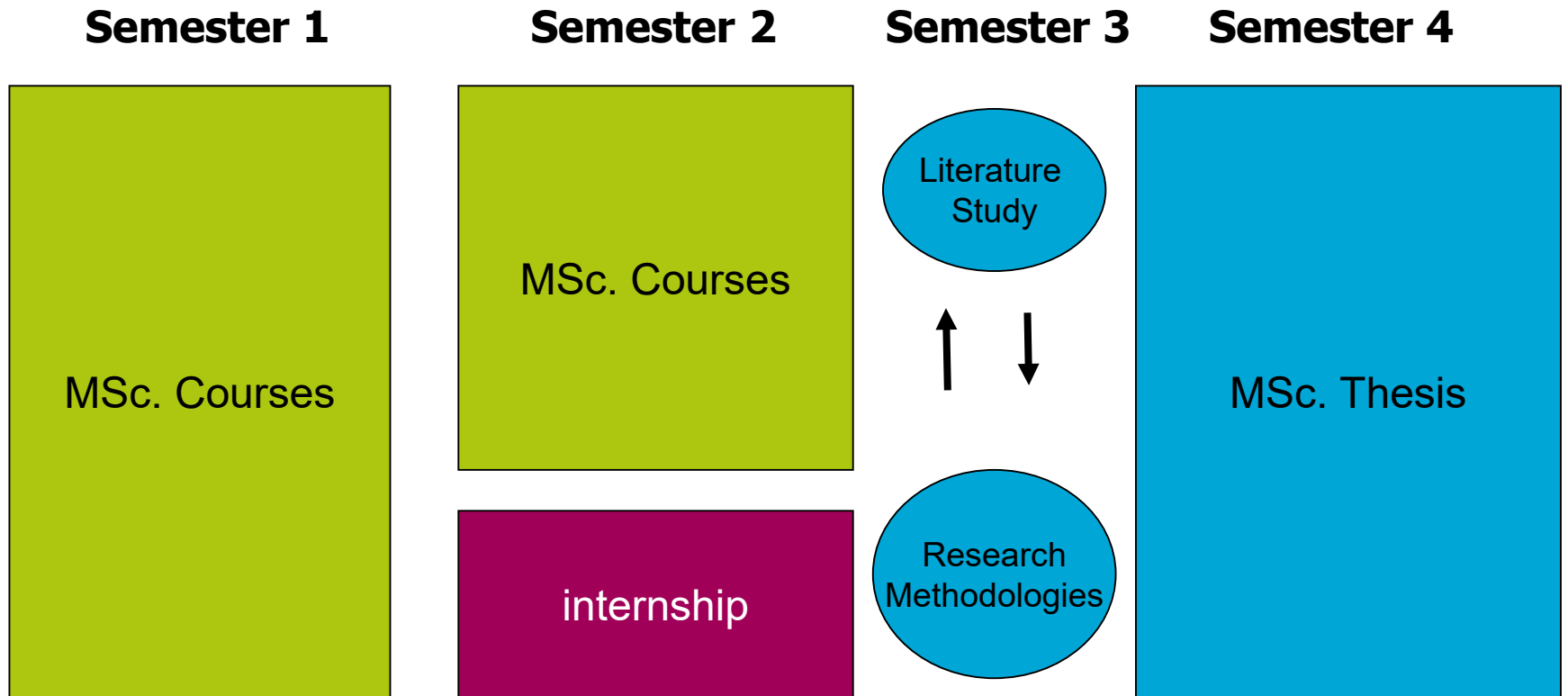
At the end of the course the student will be able to:

- be aware of the expectations of an MSc. student
- be able to formulate a research question and research aim
- be able to set up a research plan for their MSc. thesis
- based on initial problem, design, set up, run, analyze, manage and evaluate a research project

Fit in MSc. Curriculum



Fit in MSc. Curriculum



Course Set-up

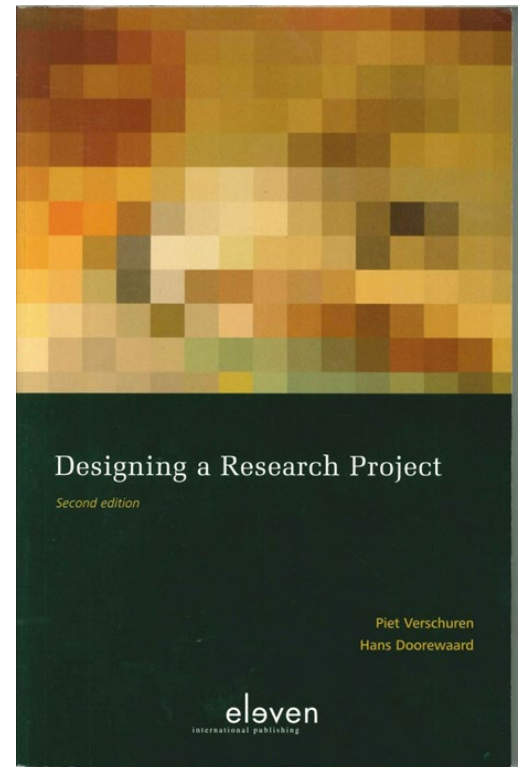
- Course taught online in Periods 1 – 5
- 7 weeks of streamed online lectures varying in length.
- Project Plan to be handed in using TurnItIn via the online learning environment (OLE). Deadlines can be found on the OLE.
- Possibility for online peer review of draft project plan. Ask fellow students to act as peer reviewer or use the Discussion forum on the OLE to find yourself a partner

Lecture Overview

Week	Subject	Topics/Activities
1	Research Foundation	What is research?
2	Research Methods	Stages of Research, Research Aims, Research Questions
3	Data Analysis	Acquiring and Analysing your data using Quantitative & Qualitative methods. Demonstration of data analysis with SPSS
4	Validation and Verification	How to validate & verify your work?
5	Project Management	How to manage your project and your thesis progress. Project plan peer review
6	Planning	How to plan, expectations, Gantt Charts
7	Lit. Review, Scientific Reporting & Presenting, FAQ	How to carry out a scientific literature review? Differences between review and research, Academic standards and expectations, Reproducibility, Reporting styles, FAQs
1-7	Library Course	How to find scientific literature to support your research

Book

- Designing a Research Project - 2nd edition
Verschuren & Doorewaard
Eleven International Publishing
ISBN 978-90-5931-572-3
- Available via VSV or over the web
- For reading during
AND
after the course!



Assessment

	Assignment	Weight
1	Write a research plan for Literature Study/Thesis. This research plan must contain: aim, basis in literature, research questions, theoretical content, experimental set-up, results outcome & relevance, planning. (Individual assignment)	100%
2	Online Library Course	Assumed Completed

Deadlines

- 5 hand in periods per year. See OLE for details on deadlines
- Grade intended by: end of next period or end of academic year in case of period 4
- No hand in possible after deadline! – Hand in next period
- All work must be handed in **AS PDF** via OLE and will be checked via TurnItIn, with feedback provided in your document
- Please note only reports with a Fail mark (5.5 or lower) can be amended for renewed correction.

Assignment: Project Plan

- Write a research plan on a topic relevant to your chosen Master Track and Profile. Try linking it to your Literature Study or MSc. thesis. See the template on OLE for a more detailed description.
- **Requirements:**
 - Use the template on OLE
 - Max. no of pages: 10
 - Font: 10pt minimum
 - Submit as pdf to TurnItIn on OLE

To do next

- Continue with the next section in this online course
- Keep up with the course schedule