www.skills4study.com – the leading study skills website

Palgrave Study Skills
Authoring a PhD
Business Degree Success
Career Skills
Critical Thinking Skills
Cite them Right (8th edn)
e-Learning Skills (2nd edn)
Effective Communication for
Arts and Humanities Students
Effective Communication for
Science and Technology
The Exam Skills Handbook
The Foundations of Research (2nd edn)
The Good Supervisor
Great Ways to Learn Anatomy and
Physiology
How to Manage your Arts, Humanities and
Social Science Degree
How to Manage your Distance and
Open Learning Course
How to Manage your Postgraduate Course
How to Manage your Science and
Technology Degree
How to Study Foreign Languages
How to Use your Reading in your Essays
How to Write Better Essays (2nd edn)
How to Write your Undergraduate
Dissertation
Information Skills
IT Skills for Successful Study
Making Sense of Statistics
The International Student Handbook
The Mature Student’s Guide to Writing (2nd edn)
The Mature Student’s Handbook
The Palgrave Student Planner
The Personal Tutor’s Handbook

The Postgraduate Research Handbook (2nd edn)
Presentation Skills for Students (2nd edn)
The Principles of Writing in Psychology
Professional Writing (2nd edn)
Researching Online
Research Using IT
Skills for Success (2nd edn)
The Study Abroad Handbook
The Student’s Guide to Writing (2nd edn)
The Student Life Handbook
The Study Skills Handbook (3rd edn)
Study Skills for Speakers of English as
a Second Language
Studying Arts and Humanities
Studying the Built Environment
Studying Business at MBA and Masters Level
Studying Economics
Studying History (3rd edn)
Studying Law (2nd edn)
Studying Mathematics and its Applications
Studying Modern Drama (2nd edn)
Studying Physics
Studying Programming
Studying Psychology (2nd edn)
Teaching Study Skills and Supporting Learning
The Undergraduate Research Handbook
The Work-Based Learning Student Handbook
Work Placements – A Survival Guide for Students
Writing for Law
Writing for Nursing and Midwifery Students
Write it Right
Writing for Engineers (3rd edn)

Palgrave Study Skills: Literature
General Editors: John Peck and Martin Coyle
How to Begin Studying English Literature
(3rd edn)
How to Study a Jane Austen Novel (2nd edn)
How to Study a Charles Dickens Novel
How to Study Chaucer (2nd edn)
How to Study an E. M. Forster Novel
How to Study James Joyce
How to Study Linguistics (2nd edn)
How to Study Modern Poetry
How to Study a Novel (2nd edn)
How to Study a Poet
How to Study a Renaissance Play
How to Study Romantic Poetry (2nd edn)
How to Study a Shakespeare Play (2nd edn)
How to Study Television
Practical Criticism

The Foundations of Research
2nd Edition
Jonathan Grix

palgrave
macmillan
Contents

List of Figures x
List of Tables xi
Preface xiii

Introduction 1
The structure of the book 2

1 The Nature of Research 7
The 'language' of research 8
The nature of research 9
The nature of the doctoral process 11
Why do a PhD? 11
The right place to study 12
Matters of time 13
Familiarise yourself 15
Summary 16
Further reading 17

2 The 'Nuts and Bolts' of Research 18
The tools of research 18
Key terms in research 30
Summary 33
Essential reading 34
Further reading 34

3 Getting Started in Research 35
Getting started 36
Levels of analysis and types of research 47
Types of study 50
Summary 55
Essential reading 56
Further reading 56
4 The Building Blocks of Research
- Ontology
- Epistemology
- Differing ontological and epistemological views
- The directional relationship between ontology, epistemology, methodology, methods and sources
- The 'social capital' debate
- Summary
- Essential reading

5 Introducing the Key Research Paradigms
- Research paradigms
- Key perspectives in research
- Summary: Disciplines, perspectives, discourses and interdisciplinarity
- Interdisciplinarity or 'post-disciplinarity'
- Summary
- Essential reading
- Further reading

6 The Types and Uses of Theory in Research
- Introducing theory
- The traditional view of theory
- The role of theory in social research
- Research paradigms and the role of theory
- Different uses of theory
- Inductive and deductive theory and research
- Summary
- Essential reading
- Further reading

7 Introducing Research Methods
- Quantitative research
- Qualitative research
- The quantitative–qualitative dichotomy: A false antithesis
- Methods
- Triangulation, mixing methods and data
- Summary
- Essential reading
- Further reading

8 Academic Standards, Plagiarism and Ethics in Research
- Why worry about academic standards, plagiarism and ethics?
- Ethics in research
- Continuum of ethics in research
- Summary
- Essential reading
- Further reading

9 Conclusion: Summary of Key Points

Appendix 1 Stages of the Research Process
- The stages of doctoral research
- Stage I
- Stage II
- Stage III

Appendix 2 Glossary of Research Terms

Bibliography

Index