Hermeneutics

- Observe the use and operation of an artifact in its intended working environment.
- Advantage
  - Overcome some limitation by empirical hypothesis testing and formal proof.
- Limitation
  - Difficult to control env.
  - Ex Duplication of conditions.
  - Ex Observation induced change to env.

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Research Skills: Time Management

- Two or more years seem a very long time.
- Components of a graduate program.
- To most students, most tasks are encountered the first time.
- Things don't always go as planed.

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Components of a Graduate Program

- Course requirements.
- Survey literature.
- Write up research proposal.
- Conduct research
  - Design and analyze algorithms (Propose HCI methodology)
  - Code and debug prototype
  - Experiment and result interpretation (Usability testing)
- Write up thesis.
- Prepare and defend thesis.

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Effective Time Management

- Set timely objectives.
  - Plan milestones either forward or backward.
  - Divide each task into weekly or biweekly subtasks.
  - Decompose each subtask into daily goals.
- Add pressure to yourself.

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Research Skills: Documenting Research

- You may be inclined to focus on `doing' research and leave `writing' to the time when research is done.
  - Ideas generated in discussions may be forgotten when careful analysis is needed.
  - Abandoned partial solutions may soon disappear from memory but are valuable for motivating the final solution.
  - Routine documentations make thesis writing a much less daunting task.

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