Important Dates | Points | (Notes)
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Prepaper due | 5 | (for points) Monday, April 25 (no points if late)
Peer Review 1* | 10 | Papers for exchange due in class Friday, May 6
| | Peer review in class Monday, May 9
Peer Review 2* | 10 | Papers for exchange due in class Friday, May 20
| | Peer review in class Monday, May 23
Final Paper** | 40 | Friday, May 27

* Provide paper drafts on time AND take part in classroom peer review in order to earn points
** Accepted late with -5 points in class on Wednesday June 1. Accepted late with -8 points in class on Friday, June 3; Not accepted after Friday, June 3

OVERVIEW: The review paper assignment requires a 6- or 7-page computer-printed (double-spaced) paper that covers one focused topic in human motor control and learning. Most papers will cover 4 or 5 related research articles. The typical plan of attack is to (1) build interest and overview the problem in an introduction, (2) review experiments that shed light on the problem, and (3) summarize major findings.

OPTIONAL ‘W’ Students who wish to earn a Writing course ‘W’ designation grade may write a longer 13- or 14-page review paper. Most W papers will cover 7 or 8 related research articles. Please let me know by the day the first Peer Review is due if you plan to write an optional W paper (better if I know earlier). A full draft of the paper will be due one class day prior to the day that the class exchanges papers for the second peer review so I can comment and return the draft to you. Students writing Optional W papers also take part in peer review and the second peer review will be for the full paper.

Topics
Select a single focused topic in the area of motor control and learning. I will provide examples and make suggestions in class. I am always willing to meet with interested students in my office to talk about the paper.

Several topics are NOT acceptable: 1) Use of cell phones or texting while driving, 2) Goal setting, 3) Sleep or sleep deprivation and motor skill, and the 4) Influence of anxiety/arousal on performance. Likewise topics covered in the five papers available on the class webpage as examples are NOT acceptable unless you clear them with me and convince me you can narrow focus and find more current references to cover: 1) Multiple Sclerosis, 2) The Effects of ADHD on Motor Skills in Children, 3) Visual Information Processing in Basketball, 4) physical therapy for patients with Parkinson’s Disease, and 5) Constraint Induced Movement Therapy. Mental Practice is also not an acceptable topic but selected topics within mental practice may be approved. Knowledge of Results is also not an acceptable topic but selected topics with KR may be approved.

Prepaper Requirements
The purpose of the prepaper is to allow me to offer advice and suggest references. On the prepaper include (1) your name and intended topic, (2) a tentative major heading outline, and (3) the references that you intend to use. Attach a printout of abstracts for the articles from on-line search or copies of the abstracts from the articles themselves. Be sure these abstracts include the actual reference for the article. Attach at least ONE entire printed article. To receive points, the prepaper should be turned in on its due date. Even if late, the prepaper is required. It is due at least two weeks prior to the due date for the final paper (otherwise there is no guarantee that the topic is accepted).
Peer Review
We will devote part of two classes to peer reviews. The first peer review is for a draft of your introduction and discussion of TWO research articles. The second peer review is for a draft of the introduction and discussion of FOUR research articles. You will exchange papers with two other students (so bring TWO copies). During the next class period you will participate in a guided peer review. Read and make written comments (lots of them!) on the papers that you receive for review. You “owe” 30 minutes to each paper you review for the first peer review and 45 minutes to each paper you review for the second peer review. The draft prepared for peer review should be computer printed, double spaced, and have at least one-inch margins so reviewers have space to comment.

Final Paper Requirements

Format: The final paper should have a cover page, followed by the body of the paper, followed by a separate reference page. The cover page should include a title that you select for your paper and your name and student number. The reference page should include the full citation for all the references cited in your paper. Please leave 1-inch margins and use Font Size 12. Staple the paper together; do not put it in a folder or cover. You must also submit paper copies of the four main research articles used for your review. Fifteen points will be subtracted if the articles are not attached.

I may ask you to give me copies of the paper as it existed for Peer Review 1 and for Peer Review 2 so keep copies of these early versions.

Follow American Psychological Association (APA) format for references and citations. For APA format the reference list is in alphabetical order by author. Citations in the paper are author, date. If a paper has more than one author, list all the authors the first time the paper is mentioned. If a paper has two authors, list them both if you cite the paper again. If there are three or more authors, list the first author followed by et al. if you cite the paper again. For more information on APA format consult the Psychology Writing Center Handout on APA citations.

You may discuss your paper with others (I encourage you to discuss it with me), but the writing must be your own. Copying or paraphrasing is not acceptable. Read the articles you cite carefully and be sure that you understand them. Then you will be able to talk about the articles and express ideas in your own words. Be sure to write complete grammatical sentences that are free of spelling errors. Recall that we typically use past tense when describing completed research. Clarity of expression as well as content will be considered in grading.

Advice:
(1) Try to find a recent review article or chapter that covers your area of interest. Use the review to select a specific topic and to identify the research articles you will cover. The optional background reading list on the syllabus is one good source for review chapters. Another strategy for finding articles on a focused topic is to work backward from a very recent research article, using the references cited in that article. It is also OK to use one of the research articles assigned for class and find three other research articles to complement it.

(2) Read and deal with the actual experiments reported in the research article. Do not report what someone else (e.g., a textbook) said about an experiment.

(3) It is better to cover a few experiments carefully than to try to cover lots of experiments.
(4) Don't forget the summary/conclusion. A common mistake is to talk about one experiment after another and then quit. Instead, provide transition between experiments as you go along and finish with a summary/conclusion.

(5) Look at articles in the journal Psychological Bulletin for examples of this type of review paper. See also the review papers written in the past by 428 students (on class web page).

(6) Visit the Psychology Writing Center. You don't need a complete draft before you go. It's a good idea to see a tutor early, e.g., you might schedule an appointment to discuss your written description of a single research article. Students are welcome to visit more than once per paper.

PSYCHOLOGY WRITING CENTER
The writing center is located in Guthrie Annex 4 Room 107. Students may sign up for appointments on the writing center webpage (http://web.psych.washington.edu/writingcenter/). Drop-ins are fine too if a tutor is available.

Check the Writing Center section of the psychology webpage for writing handouts and hours. See in particular the handouts:
(1) Summarizing a Research Article (Find under writing Guides for Psych 209)
(2) APA Citations: A Guide for Psychology Undergraduates
(3) How and When to Cite
(4) Style Points for Scientific Writing
(5) Writing a Psychology Literature Review
(6) Participating in Peer Review

John Holmes is the PSYCHOLOGY LIBRARIAN.
Contact John Holmes for help with using reference tools such as Medline and psycINFO and finding focused references for your paper. His office is in OUGL. Find him on the library webpage in the psychology section.

http://guides.lib.washington.edu/psychology