**Final Paper Requirements**

On the day your final exam is due (Tuesday, April 30, 11:00 a.m.), you are expected to turn in a paper that presents your own original experimental study. This is meant to be a practical project, meaning that the study should be doable given available resources, and I will elaborate on what I mean by this in class. It should read as much like a polished journal article as possible, not like a class assignment. There are only two deviations from this expectation, items 4 and 5 as described below.

You study can be a lab experiment, field experiment, survey experiment or quasi-experimental design -whatever you think is most suitable for your particular study.

The experiment you design cannot be simply a replication of a previous study unless it extends it in a meaningful way; it must be designed to make an original theoretical and/or empirical contribution to knowledge.

The parts this paper should include are:

1. An introduction to the research question and why it is interesting/important
2. A brief (!) review of the literature that helps the reader to understand what new contribution to knowledge this study will make.
3. A methods/research design section that includes:
   1. An argument as to why an experiment is the appropriate methodological approach to this question, and why this particular type of experiment.
   2. A description of the experimental design that you used. Write as if you have already done the study, not as if it were hypothetical. Justify the type of design and note its strengths/weaknesses for purposes of your study.
   3. An indication of where your subjects came from, whether you pretested, what the reliability of your scales was, etc. -- everything you would normally report in a journal article.
   4. An appendix that includes the pre- or post-test measures, instruments for observation or whatever you plan to use for purposes of measuring dependent variables in an appendix (but refer the reader to them in the text).
   5. A description of the implementation of your experimental manipulations
4. Fake results, just as you would ideally like them to turn out. You need not create a whole data set as in the second homework assignment, but you should present the figures and/or tables and discuss your results and why/how they support your hypothesis. If you want to surprise yourself with data that contradict your hypothesis in an interesting way, that’s OK too!
5. A conclusion, indicating what has been learned, why it is important, and how humanity will all be better or worse off as a result.

The paper can be a *maximum* of 25 pages of text, including figures and tables, but excluding references and appendices. Shorter is often better, so long as you manage to cover the essential points. The conventions of today’s journals rarely allow for rambling or asides, so you might as well get used to it. You may find it useful to refer to the article entitled, “Writing the Empirical Journal Article,” by Daryl Bem.