

Final Paper (total = 30 pts)

The Final Paper will be the primary writing assessment for this class. The final paper will be approximately 8-10 double-spaced pages in length (excluding references) and will be on a topic of your choice. The paper should integrate and synthesize information from multiple domains of cognition research in everyday life. Your paper can take one of these two forms: 1) how three different cognitive processes can be applied to one area of application, or 2) how one cognitive process can be applied to three different areas of application (more information given below). Through this paper, you will learn to plan, conduct, and organize an in-depth literature review on a topic of your choice. For some of you, this may be your first time writing this type of a scientific paper. Thus, to provide a scaffold through the early stages of planning, there will be three other assessments: a Proposal, a Road Map, and a Section Draft (described below).

I will discuss the assignments and guidelines for each in the first class. Detailed requirements are described in [Appendix C](#).

Proposal (3 pts):

By Week 5 (Oct 6th, 11:59 p.m.), you will be asked to submit a short paragraph about your intended topic for the final paper, with at least 3 relevant references you plan to use. I will provide feedback on your proposal regarding the scope of the topic, potential details you can focus on, and other sources you could use, etc. For grading rubric, please refer to [Appendix C](#).

Road Map (4 pts):

By Week 8 of the semester (Oct 27th, 11:59 p.m.), you will be asked to submit a Road Map assignment. This can be in any format and at any level of detail that works best for your writing process. Some examples of this could be

- A sparse outline of the final paper with some section headings and a broad overview of key ideas or themes you plan to cover in each section (including relevant references).
- A more detailed outline with section headings, and a bulleted list of points you plan to cover (including relevant references).
- A plan of how you intend to tackle each section of your paper (for e.g. I plan to work on Topic 1 by Week 7, Topic 2 by Week 8, etc. including references)

For the grading rubric, please refer to [Appendix C](#).

Section Draft (5 pts):

By Week 11 of the semester (Nov 17th, 11:59 p.m.), you will be asked to submit a section draft. This is a 2-3 page (double-spaced) paper that should cover one of the three topics/sections you plan to write about in your final paper. For example, it could be one of following:

- Your chosen cognitive process and how it can be applied to one of your

three chosen fields

- One of your chosen cognitive processes and how it can be applied to your chosen field.

Once again, I will give feedback on your draft. Importantly, here, I will be giving feedback on your scientific writing skills, in addition to the appropriateness of the content and the references.

For the grading rubric, please refer to [Appendix C](#).

Final Paper (18 pts):

As mentioned above, the final paper, due the last day of the reading period, can be in one of these two forms:

1. A paper integrating research on three different cognitive processes to one applied field. For e.g., How can research on attention, learning, and memory be applied to education?
2. A paper integrating research in three applied fields for one cognitive process. For e.g., How does memory research apply to education, law, and clinical psychology?

You may choose any of the cognitive processes and applications. Cognitive processes can include attention, learning, memory, language, problem-solving, curiosity, etc. Applications can be those discussed in class or any other application in everyday life. However, your paper must go beyond what was covered in the assigned readings.

Detailed requirements for the final paper with the rubric are described in [Appendix C](#).

Why am I doing this?

Graduating with a major (or a minor) in Psychology/Neuroscience means that you have learnt basic scientific literacy and science writing skills. These include the ability to research on a scientific topic, read journal articles and summarize them, evaluate and synthesize information from different sources, and write a well-organized, precise, and logical scientific paper. To accomplish these goals, we have the final paper in the form of a literature review. Of course, you will be guided through the process of writing it throughout the semester and will have feedback to improve your skills.

Appendix C

Detailed Requirements for the Writing Assessment

Topic:

The final paper can be in one of these two forms:

1. A paper integrating research on three different cognitive processes to one applied field (for e.g., How can research on attention, learning, and memory be applied to education?)
2. A paper integrating research on one cognitive process across three applied fields (for e.g., How does memory research apply to education, law, and clinical psychology)

You may choose any of the cognitive processes including (but not limited to) attention, learning, memory, language, problem-solving, curiosity, etc. Applications can be those discussed in class. However, your paper must go beyond what was covered in the assigned readings.

Readings and References:

To do a good job on the final paper, you must do research beyond the papers discussed in class: find new peer-reviewed articles that touch on the same topic (if you're stuck, a good place to look is in the references of articles that you read, or use Google Scholar to find articles that cited your article). Because this paper is about whole areas of research, you should read several articles carefully, and make sure to cite them: the expectation is to read and cite at least 10 articles, at least 5 of which must be articles that were not on the syllabus.

For a free, online version of APA 7 formatting guidelines, you can use the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) website:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html

Proposal Requirements (3 pts):

This assignment will be graded on a complete/incomplete basis per the rubric below.

Submit a short paragraph (approximately 300 words) about your intended topic for the final paper, with at least 3 relevant references you plan to use.

Road Map Requirements (4 pts):

This assignment will be graded on a complete/incomplete basis per the rubric below.

The road map can be in any format, and at any level of detail that works best for your writing process. The only requirement for the road map is that you include at least 6 relevant references, only 3 of which can be from the class readings. The other 3 must come from readings that you have been researching specifically for the paper (see the Readings and References section above).

Some examples of this could be:

- A sparse outline of the final paper with some section headings and a broad overview of what key ideas or themes you plan to cover in each section (including relevant references).
- A more detailed outline with section headings, and a bulleted list of points you plan to cover (including relevant references).
- A plan of how you intend to tackle each section of your paper (for e.g. I plan to work on Topic 1 by Week 7, Topic 2 by Week 8, etc.). Make sure to include relevant references.

However, this submission cannot be limited to just what was presented in the proposal (or an abstract of similar length). The idea is to make sure you have thought carefully about your topic well in advance of the deadline. Again, I will give some suggestions and feedback on the road map so that it can help you write a good final paper.

Section Draft Requirements (5 pts):

The section draft should cover one of the three topics/sections you plan to write in your final paper. For example, it could be one of following:

- Your chosen cognitive process and how it can be applied to one of your three chosen fields
- One of your chosen cognitive processes and how it can be applied to your chosen field.

Formatting requirements are as follows:

- 8.5" by 11" paper, 1" margins, 11- or 12-point font, double-spaced
- 2-3 pages in length (excluding references)

Final Paper Requirements (18 pts):

The final paper, due the last day of the reading period, can be in one of these two forms:

- A paper integrating research on three different cognitive processes to one applied field. For e.g., How can research on attention, learning, and memory be applied to education?
- A paper integrating research in three applied fields for one cognitive process. For e.g., How does memory research apply to education, law, and clinical psychology?

You may choose any of the cognitive processes and applications. Cognitive processes can include attention, learning, memory, language, problem-solving, curiosity, etc. Applications can be those discussed in class or any other application in everyday life. However, your paper must go beyond what was covered in the assigned readings.

Formatting requirements are as follows:

- 8.5" by 11" paper, 1" margins, 11- or 12-point font, double-spaced
- 8-10 pages in length (excluding title page, and references)

- Follow APA 7 formatting guidelines for references and in-text citations.
- Include a title page as per APA 7 formatting

Rubric for the Proposal		
Component	Completed	Incomplete
Topic (1.5 pts)	Meets requirement for the final paper topic (i.e. 3 cognitive processes applied to one field or one cognitive process applied to three fields)	Does not meet requirements for the final paper topic (points will be taken off based on the requirements that are not met)
References (0.75 pts)	Includes atleast 3 references (one for each of the three sections; each section is one cognitive process applied to one real-world domain)	Does not include all 3 references (points will be taken off based on how many references are missing)
Submission (0.75 pts)	Completed by the deadline	Incomplete after deadline

Rubric for the Road Map		
Component	Completed	Incomplete
Content (1 pts)	Must extend on the proposal and contain more relevant content than the proposal (e.g. outline with sections and themes, detailed outline with points in each section, plan for tackling the paper by section)	Does not extend on the proposal, or is an abstract/proposal of similar length
References (1 pts)	Includes at least 6 relevant references, three of which are not specified in the reading list/syllabus.	Does not include all 6 references OR Includes at least 6 references, but 4 or more of the references are from the reading list/syllabus.
Submission (1 pts)	Completed and submitted by the deadline	Incomplete after deadline
Feedback (1 pts)	Incorporates and integrates <u>all</u> feedback from the proposal stage.	Does not incorporate or integrate some of the feedback from the proposal stage (0.5 pts). Or Does not incorporate <u>any</u> feedback from the proposal.

Rubric for the Section Draft

	100% pts ----- 0% pts		
Component	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement
Content* (2 pts)	<p>Includes <u>all</u> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence: The evidence/data that is used to support your thesis should be the best available to strongly support your claims and include precise and well-cited evidence. Analysis: Takes the evidence beyond description or reporting, and thoughtfully consolidates all the evidence to push the paper's claim (i.e. together, what does all this evidence imply about this topic? Are there still any gaps in our knowledge on this topic?) <p>Content is accurate.</p>	<p>Includes evidence, but does not include any analysis that thoughtfully consolidates all the evidence. Or</p> <p>Some analysis and evidence is accurate, while the others are inaccurate or make overstretched claims.</p>	<p>Does not include any evidence or analysis of such evidence. Contains statements that are not supported by references.</p>
References (1 pts)	<p>Included both:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-text citations (in APA 7 in-text citations style) References at the end of the paper (in APA 7 style). <p>No citations or references were missing. (Note: References are not included in the page limit.)</p>	<p>Included only the in-text citations (in APA 7 style) or only the references at the end of the paper (in APA 7 style) or</p> <p>Some citations and references were included, but not others.</p>	<p>No citations or references were included in the paper.</p>
Submission (0.5 pts)	Completed and submitted by the deadline	— Not Applicable —	Incomplete after the deadline
Feedback (1.5 pts)	You incorporated feedback throughout the semester including from the proposal and road map, and any other discussions you had with the instructor.	Some, but not all, feedback from the different stages (proposal, road map) or discussions with the instructor was incorporated into the final paper.	You did not integrate or incorporate any of the feedback from the instructor including on the proposal, road map, or from any discussions.

Grading Rubric for the Final Paper				
		100% pts ----- 0% pts		
Component		Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement
Content (12 pts)	Introduction *(2 pts)	<p>Includes <u>all</u> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis: Paper's main arguments are presented clearly and evolve through the introduction • Motive: Provides the motivation behind the paper (i.e., why are the paper's key question(s) and thesis important and interesting) • Introduce the three sections: State and explain the topics that will be covered in the next few sections of the paper, and why/how it relates to the main thesis in the paper. 	<p>Includes one or two of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis • Motive • Introducing the three sections <p>Or</p> <p>Some of the content is inaccurate</p>	<p>Does not include any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis • Motive • Introducing the three sections <p>Or</p> <p>Content is completely inaccurate</p>
	Topic 1* (2 pts; this is the topic that you submitted a section draft on)	<p>Includes <u>all</u> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence: The evidence/data that is used to support your thesis should be the best available to strongly support your claims and include precise and well-cited evidence. • Analysis: Takes the evidence beyond description or reporting, and thoughtfully consolidates all the evidence to push the paper's claim (i.e. together, what does all this evidence imply about this topic? Are there still any gaps in our knowledge on this topic?) 	<p>Includes evidence, but does not include any analysis that thoughtfully consolidates all the evidence. Or</p> <p>Some analysis and evidence is accurate, while the others are inaccurate or make overstretched claims.</p>	<p>Does not include any evidence or analysis of such evidence. Contains statements that are not supported by references.</p>

Grading Rubric for the Final Paper				
		100% pts ----- 0% pts		
Component		Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement
	Topic 2* (3 pt)	Same as Topic 1	Same as Topic 1	Same as Topic 1
	Topic 3* (3 pts)	Same as Topic 1	Same as Topic 1	Same as Topic 1
	Conclusion* (2 pts)	Includes <u>all</u> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restates the paper's central question and thesis statement • Summarizes the main points of evidence and analysis presented throughout the different sections of the paper. • Explains the significance of these findings, and the implications for the field and future research (including any gaps in knowledge or future directions for research). 	Paper restates the central question and thesis statement, and does one or both of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarizes the main points of evidence and analysis poorly • Fails to explain the significance of these findings, and the implications for the field and future research 	Paper fails to restate the central question and thesis. Paper does not or poorly summarizes the main points across topics. Paper does not explain the significance or implications of the findings.
	* : For full points (or the Excellent category of the rubric), content should be accurate.			
Overall writing style and structure (2 pts)		Organization and logic of the paper was clear (including introduction, appropriate transitions in the body paragraphs, and conclusion). There were no or few errors in grammar, spelling, punctuations, etc. Your writing was clear, and easily understandable.	Organization and logic of the paper was clear for the most part, but there were issues with clarity in some areas/sections. There were many errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation etc. Writing was not clear, or easily understandable to the reader.	There was no organization or logic in the structure of the paper. Every sentence had multiple errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.

Grading Rubric for the Final Paper				
		100% pts ----- 0% pts		
Component		Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement
References (2 pts)		Included both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-text citations (in APA 7 in-text citations style) • References at the end of the paper (in APA 7 style). References are not included in the page limit. No citations or references were missing.	Included either the in-text citations (in APA 7 style) or the references at the end of the paper (in APA 7 style) or Some citations and references were included, but not others.	No citations or references were included in the paper.
Incorporated feedback (2 pts)		You incorporated feedback throughout the semester including from the different stages of the final paper, and any other discussions you had with the instructor.	Some, but not all, feedback from the different stages or discussions with the instructor was incorporated into the final paper.	You did not integrate or incorporate any of the feedback from the instructor including on the proposal, road map, section draft, or from any discussions.