Final Paper

The Final Paper will be the primary written 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 paper. Thus, to provide a scaffold for everyone through the early stages of planning, there will be two other assessments: a Proposal, and a Road Map (described below).

I will discuss the assignments and guidelines for each in the first class. Detailed requirements are described in **Appendix C**.

Proposal:

By Week 9 (Nov 2, 2023), 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.

Since this assignment is to ensure you are on the right track with respect to topic selection, this assignment will be graded based on these three requirements:

1. completed by the due date,
2. meets topic requirements (i.e. 3 cognitive processes applied to one field or one cognitive process applied to three fields), and
3. includes at least 3 relevant references.

This assignment will thus be graded as follows:

- 5% = Meets all 3 requirements
- 3% = Meets at least 2 requirements
- 2% = Meets one requirement only
- 0% = No proposal submitted or does not meet even one requirement.

Road Map:

By Week 12 of the semester (Nov 20), 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 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.)

However, this submission <u>cannot be limited</u> 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.

This assignment will be graded based on these requirements:

1. complete by the due date,
2. extends on the proposal
3. includes at least 6 relevant references
4. at least 3 references (of the required 6) must be those not specified in the reading list/syllabus.

This assignment will thus be graded as follows:

- 5% = Meets all 4 requirements
- 4% = Meets at least 3 requirements
- 3% = Meets at least 2 requirements
- 2% = Meets one requirement only
- 0% = No road map submitted or does not meet even one requirement.

Final Paper:

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, <u>your paper must go beyond what was covered in the assigned readings</u>. Detailed requirements for the final paper are described in **Appendix C**.