Psychology 209 – 2018

Final Project Guidance

The final project is should be a project related to your interests, addressing a topic in cognitive science (broadly construed), computational intelligence, or neuroscience. The project proposal should be about one page long and should be formulated after discussion with Jay or Andrew.

The final project report should describe the background and rationale for your project, the details of what you did and why you did it, your results and related analysis and discussion, including summary, implications, limitations, and future directions. These reports should be about 3,000 words plus figures, tables, and references.

The Project will count for 35% of the overall grade in the class.

Timeline:

Proposal Due: Friday, Feb 23, 5 pm, via Canvas.

Emphasize question or topic you will address, your planned approach, and the target of your analysis; briefly mention expected implications and limitations.

In Class Presentations: Week 10: 8 min per student (plus 2 for questions); it will be great if you can have some preliminary results by then. Emphasize question, approach, and preliminary results, issues you would like feedback on.

Eight minutes is very short, plan carefully and focus on high points.

Paper Due: Wednesday of Finals Week

Ideally, your project would:

Address a topic in cognitive science broadly construed including human cognition and behavior, cognitive neuroscience, or computational intelligence.

Be motivated by a statement of purpose and a literature review.

Be as simple as possible while addressing an aspect of the phenomenon of interest.

Follow the basic outline on the next page.

Use a neural network model or tools and ideas that relate in some way to neural network models.

Involve analysis as well as results.

Projects can be developed through consultations and collaboration but each student's proposal and write-up must be independent.

Project Paper Default Outline

Introduction:

Background and rationale for your project: What were you interested in learning more about?

How are you building on what has been done before?

Highlight innovative aspects of methods and analysis.

Methods:

The details of what you did and why you did it.

Ideally, you should provide enough details that someone could replicate what you did, in addition to making the main aspects of what you did

Explicit so the reader may be aware of how they may have affected the results.

Results and Analyses:

Report what you found in a way that allows the reader to appreciate how your findings address the goals and questions that motivated the project

Dig as deeply as you can to understand why you found what you did

Discussion:

Revisit the issues you raised in the introduction and describe how your findings address the questions you hoped to explore. Mention limitations of your efforts and other lessons learned.

Discuss how the work might be extended in the future to address limitations and further advance our understanding in relation to the issues that you raised.

Remember: Success is unimportant: Understanding and clarity are what counts!