Final Paper Assignment

PSY1401 Cognitive Psychology   2011 Term A   Professor Ryan S.J.d. Baker

For the final paper, you will choose a recent scientific paper in the area of cognitive psychology, summarize the findings of this article, and write a description of how the article's findings should influence practice in another field of your choice.

This assignment can be completed individually, or in groups of up to three. All groups must be submitted to Dr. Baker and Ms. Raziuddin by email before class on Monday, September 26th.

This description of the final paper assignment supercedes the description in the syllabus.

Due Dates

Paper/group/topic proposal due date: Monday, September 26th AT BEGINNING OF CLASS

Feedback returned: Tuesday, September 27th by 11:59pm

Final paper due: Monday, October 10th AT BEGINNING OF CLASS

Step 1:

Choose a recent paper pertaining to Cognitive Psychology. The article must include full description of one or more empirical quantitative studies. (Quantitative research involves numerical and statistical analyses). Purely theoretical or review papers are not acceptable. Papers describing wholly qualitative research (e.g. case studies, anecdotal evidence, anthropological or ethnographic methodology, informal methodologies) are also not acceptable for this assignment.

The paper must have been published by a respected, peer-refereed journal, no earlier than 2005. The article can be in press, but must have been published in its final version prior to Friday, October 14th, 2011.

The following journals are recommended, however articles in other respected, peer-refereed journals are acceptable too.

- Cognition and Instruction
- Cognitive Development
- Cognitive Psychology
- Cognitive Science

- Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition

The professor reserves the right to reject any article in any journal if it is off-topic for the class or does not use appropriate scientific methodology. If you're uncertain, please contact me early.

Select a team of students (you can complete this assignment individually or in groups of two or three).

Select a problem in another field (not cognitive psychology) that could be addressed or influenced by the findings in this paper.

Submit the authors, article name, journal name, issue and page numbers, and if possible URL of this paper, your team, and two to four sentences on your chosen problem to the Professor at the beginning of class on Monday, September 26th. If you are unable to attend this class, then you may submit by email, but the email must be timestamped earlier than the beginning of class.

Step Two:

Read this article, and A) summarize the findings of the article, and B) write a description of how the article's findings should influence approaches taken to the problem you previously chose.

Your summary of the article's findings should detail the methods, the key results, and the theoretical implications (for cognitive psychology) of the findings. Be sure to identify potential limitations in the methods and the interpretation of the results. You will be graded on the quality of your writing and communication as well as the content of your writeup. This part of your paper should be approximately 2 pages long. You can copy tables or figures from the article, so long as you identify that you have done so; you can *not* copy text from the article (except in very limited quotations which are appropriately cited), though you should use the same terminology as the article. Make sure to define any terminology not used in class.

Your description of how the article's findings should influence practice in another field should clearly identify the problem being addressed or influenced, concretely identify the finding's practical implication(s), and explain the connection between the research finding and the practical implications. This part of your paper should be between 1 and 2 pages long.

Submit the final version of your paper at the beginning of class on Monday, October 10th. If you are unable to attend this class, then you may submit by email, but the email must be timestamped earlier than the beginning of class.