Course Project

In this project, you will pick a topic to study from a list of suggested topics. Over the course of the term, you will do a small literature review of the topic, that is, you will search for articles related to you topic, read them, and write a short paper that summarizes and integrates the findings. Based on your literature reviews, Mija will suggest a hypothesis and a method for testing it. (You will have additional opportunities to design experiments in lab courses.) You and others who selected that same topic will collect data to test the hypothesis, analyze it using your statistical knowledge, and write about your results in an APA format paper.

In order to pace the work over the course of the term and to aid those who have not written this type of paper before, I have set a number of deadlines for sections of the paper (see below). Each section of the paper that you submit will be graded and returned. You may revise any section before submitting the combined sections as your final paper.

You may work with a partner on this project from the literature review through the final paper. Both you and your partner will receive the same grade on all assignments. I have found that papers written by pairs of students generally are of a higher quality than those written by one student. That said, should you choose this option, the benefits from writing with a partner primarily come from writing together, not simply writing separate sections and gluing them together. Papers written in this fashion tend to be of lower quality than those written solo.

Recommended Reading: APA Publication Manual, Chapters 1-5

Deadlines:

- Literature review (3-5 pages): due Mon, Jan. 31
- Data collection: due Mon., Feb 14
- Results section (1-2 pages): due Fri., Feb 25
- Final paper (7-10 pages): due Fri., Mar 4
Literature review
due Monday, January 31, beginning of class

In this part of the course project, you will write a very small literature review that addresses a question. In class, you’ll pick one of the topics below. Your 3-5 page APA-style paper will suggest an answer to your question, based on previous research discussed in the given article and on other articles that you will find. I suggest that you find 2-3 other relevant experimental (not review) articles using PsychInfo. The articles that you select should in some way help to answer your selected question. You should summarize the results of each of your articles and draw conclusions based on the combined discoveries. Your conclusions should present a suggested answer to the question.

Suggested Topics and Readings
1. Context-dependent memory. Do students remember information more easily in the same environment as they learned it?

2. Laughter and humor. Is laughter always a response to a humorous comment or does it serve a social function?

3. Sarcasm and irony. Do social factors (such as the gender or occupation of the person speaking) affect the interpretation of sarcasm and irony?

Tips
- Remember that Carleton may not have all the articles that you would like to include, so check the availability of the articles that you choose, since you might not be able to get articles delivered via InterLibrary Loan in time.
- You may need to summarize some of the theory and methods presented in your articles in order to discuss the results coherently.
- Check your APA manual (chapters 1-5) for information on formatting your paper and your references. The sample papers in the back of the manual can also be helpful. The beginning chapters also have excellent advice on writing technical papers. (The style is a little different from what is taught in most writing classes.)

Resources
- Reference librarians (Charlie Priore and Ann Zawistoski) and the Library website <http://www.carleton.edu/campus/library/reference/coursepages/PSYC/psyc124mv.html> can help you find articles and search for them more effectively.
- Many of your classmates have done extensive literature searches in 200-level psychology classes.
- Erin, Nora, and Mija
Method section and Data collection
Final paper