Written Assignment

Three types
1. Computer Simulation Report
2. Experimental Study
3. Critical Review

Computer Simulation
• Start from a reasoning/problem solving phenomenon or set of data
• Derive predictions from a theory (simulation/calculation)
• Tips:
  – Excel can be useful for simulation
  – The book “Simple heuristics that make us smart” by Gigerenzer & Todd has some simple models

Experimental Study
• Example equipment:
  – paper/pencil
  – problem solving setup
  – Powerpoint ➔ see demo
• At least two conditions
  – Within subject manipulations are stronger than between subject
• Behavioral Measures:
  – Latency
  – Fixed/Variable
  – Use a timer (powerpoint might help)
  – Error Rates (correct/incorrect)
  – Analyze answers/solutions
• Simple statistics (standard errors, t-test, chi-square)

Critical Review
• Take an issue and find researchers with different theories
  – E.g. “does hot-hand phenomenon exist?”
• Contrast the theories:
• Use at least several references and read those papers

Using the Library
• Go to UCI’s library:
  ➔ http://www.lib.uci.edu/
• Go to “article databases” and find the “PsychINFO” database
• Some articles are available for direct download (see “full-text online journals” at the library website for a list of journals)
Writing Style

- Follow APA style writing
  - Online guides:
    - http://www.docstyles.com/apacrib.htm
    - http://www.uwsp.edu/psych/apa4b.htm
  - More links:
    - http://www.vanguard.edu/faculty/ddegelman/amoebe/ind ex.cfm?doc_id=2415
  - The official website:
    - http://www.apastyle.org/
  - Some general useful hints:
    - http://io.uwinnipeg.ca/~clark/research/comm/Sternberg.txt

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<th>EXPERIMENTAL STUDY</th>
<th>DISCUSSION PAPER</th>
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<td>How many of the references discussed were different papers/positions/references connected?</td>
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<td>Any tables/figures of results? How many useful references?</td>
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<td>How novel is the combination of papers discussed?</td>
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<td>How useful are the set of conditions tested?</td>
<td>Are interesting new views put forward?</td>
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