

LITERATURE REVIEW RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENT

ECONOMICS 396: Game Theory
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LITERATURE REVIEW RESEARCH PAPER: Students will write a research paper which conducts a literature review on a published work in game theory. Students will read and survey a variety of game theory articles selected from a Reading List of peer-reviewed Economics journals which will be provided by the Professor. Early in the term, students will select a journal article or textbook chapter, to review. Students are required to acquire formal approval over their article choices from the Professor. If such approval is not obtained, no credit will be given on the assignment. This paper should be approximately a 4-6 page typed work following parameters: 1.15-spaced lines in a 11- or 12- font, with 1-inch margins, and use appropriate citation of outside sources as necessary, gathered in a bibliography at the end of the report. This paper is due in my office (210 West House) in hard copy, no later than 2pm Friday March 9th. No late work will be accepted.

GUIDANCE:

Read your article end to end, use a highlighter

Construct a glossary; list of interesting terms with brief definitions of each

Construct a list of ideas

Isolate and describe a game or set of games which the article presents

- Include solutions

Practice Some Cross Reference

Look at some other article from the Reading List, perhaps from the same author or from an author mentioned in the article.

- Make connections.
- Your article will have some kind of "literature survey" where the author explains what articles he has read
- Who does your author like, etc.
- (Far more rare but potentially revealing) Who does your author hate, criticize?

More Cross Reference

Look at the reference list or bibliography of your article and find some interesting precursor articles/books. Take a look at these and include a short encapsulization of the main point(s) of each. If you turn in hard copies of these with your review, that is appreciated.

One way to appreciate your paper is to formulate the Question To Which The Paper Is The Answer.

- Why is this paper important? Why should you read this paper . . .
- (because this paper answers the question . . .)
- (this paper helps you understand the issue of . . . , this paper solves the puzzle of . . .)

Follow the Elephant

Research the Author(s) of the Article

- What is the author's background? What school their PhD from, who were their teacher(s) (dissertation advisor)?
- Trace their PhD Dissertation, what school?, who was their dissertation Chair?
- What is the author's main interest or theoretical contribution?

A Closing

- What I Have Learned . . .
- Suggestions for further research . . .
 - this article suggests that the next step would be to develop . . .
 - if I had lots of time and money and smart grad students, I'd next explore . . .