

Update on Course Requirements

I've been thinking about how to make sure that everyone gets the most that they can out of this course. Reading the primary literature — actual research papers, rather than textbook explanations and summaries — isn't easy, and it's a skill that takes practice. And I've been hearing that people would like to have more practice with how to find out what the important points and/or theoretical implications of a particular paper are.

So, I've decided to make some changes to the course requirements.

Original Course Requirements	New Course Requirements	
Attendance and participation	<i>(same)</i>	
Short reading reactions for each reading	<i>(same)</i>	
5 long reading reactions	5 assignments; several options available	
Article presentations (2)	Article presentation (1)	
Final presentation	<i>(same)</i>	I will be very happy to help you choose a topic for your paper and presentation.
Term paper	<i>(same)</i>	

About the five assignments:

I've decided to provide additional options that can be used to replace some or all of the five long reading reactions. Now, there are five assignments due over the course of the semester, and it's up to you to choose which kind of assignments you would like to do. You are free to choose five of the same kind of assignment, or something from each category.

Assignment options are:

- (a) **Choose an article and do a "long" reading reaction**, as before. If you do a long RR for a particular article, you are excused from all short RRs for the same article.
- (b) **Do a problem set**. From time to time over the course of the semester, I will post a problem set to the class web page in PDF format (if you want a printout of a problem set, just let me know). The problem sets will be similar to the Turkish or Greek problems we've recently been looking at: your job will be to apply someone's theory to analyze some data, or to compare two approaches to the same phenomenon, or something like that. Problem sets will be announced in class when they are posted to the web site, and they will be due one week from the day they are assigned. There will be at least six or seven available over the course of the semester.
- (c) **Do a second article presentation in class**. This can only be used for *one* of the five assignments. In other words, everyone will still do one article presentation in addition to the five assignments, but a second presentation is optional and will count as one of the five assignments.