

The **updated course outline** is at: <https://people.scs.carleton.ca/~paulv/5407/jan2022.html>

These assignments require that students carefully read, understand, and provide their views on the specified research paper **prior to** its discussion in class. Ten (10) such reports are required.

A report should convey **original, critical, insightful technical commentary** (not just superficial summary) on the paper's weaknesses and strengths, methodology, motivation, and the importance of its results. Include your own opinions, supported by convincing reasoning and explanations.

Each written report should be **2 pages** (excluding cover page, which is unnecessary).

The exact report structure is left open to allow a variety of styles—but to avoid repetition in these short reports, *omit an explicit* abstract (instead explain what the report is about in the first paragraph).

References (e.g., for the source paper itself) can spill onto page 3—along with any figures or diagrams, which are not required and do not count towards the two pages of required content.

CAREFULLY re-read the instructions at “**DETAILS for all WRITTEN DELIVERABLES**” in the course outline (URL at top of page), for a reminder of the specific requirements regarding:

- **Font size and layout.** 11-pt font, single column, single spacing, no excessive white space.
- **No cutting-and-pasting or screen captures.** Neither is allowed in this course. All tables and images used must be self-created, while still citing sources for ideas.
- **Formal references.** See the URL for explicit details specifying the required style.
- **Grammar and clarity.** Beware the **deduction up to 20%** for failing to meet expectations.
- **Individual work.** Re-read the ACADEMIC INTEGRITY policy; **never plagiarize or copy.**
- **Strict deadlines.** Due **4:00pm sharp** on the Tuesdays noted in the DETAILED SYLLABUS (URL at top of page). The **late deduction** is **0.5/4 (12.5%) per day** (including part days).
- **Submission mode:** through Brightspace.

Additional advice:

- ❖ **Provide context.** Begin with an overview and keep context in mind throughout the report. Aim for a **self-contained** report. Avoid jargon; define specialized notation and terminology.
- ❖ **Start early.** Reading reflections require understanding detailed research papers. This typically **requires several readings**. To allow time both to comprehend each paper and to prepare a high-quality reflection, begin your reading well in advance of the due date.
- ❖ If you lack experience reading research papers, seek guidance from your thesis advisor. Other suggestions are available in this short paper: [How to Read a Paper](#).

Grading scheme: 4 marks for each report, as follows. See above regarding **deductions**.

- 1 mark: **context** and a **self-contained** report; explain or cite background where helpful.
 - 1 mark: inclusion of **technical details** that **convey an understanding** of the paper.
 - 1 mark: **clarity** and **accuracy** of technical discussion (correctness in details).
 - 1 mark: **insights, critical review, and original observations** on the subject material.
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