PSY 422 – Psychology of Learning

Research Paper Guidelines, Checklist, and Grading Rubric

Name ___________________________ Date Completed __________

Guidelines

For this assignment, you are required to provide an overview of contemporary issues in the field of learning and behavior. You should also include a critical evaluation of research supporting and/or refuting one of the theoretical positions currently proposed in the area of learning or memory (preferably based on some theoretical issue discussed in your textbook) with a cohesive summary of your findings. Resources obtained for this paper must consist of peer reviewed articles that contain experimental procedures in support or against the theory in question. After your critical evaluation, the last portion of your paper should be a proposal for a new research study (a new experimental design) that will help provide additional evidence for or against the theory in question. It should also provide the details of the procedures, and you should make clear, the purpose of the study and why you think the results of this study will help resolve the issues involved.

It is suggested that you access the PsycINFO database at the Cannon Memorial Library to find peer reviewed articles that are relevant to your topic. You are not allowed to use Wikipedia and other internet sites as resources for your paper. This paper will be written in APA style using the following as a reference: Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (Sixth Edition). The research paper must be typed, double-spaced, written in 12-point Times New Roman font and between 8 and 12 pages in length. It must include a title page and a detailed reference section. Note that the title page and reference section is in addition to the 8 to 12 pages of the body of your paper. The paper should have a minimum of 6 to 8 peer reviewed (primary source) articles, and at least two secondary source articles (i.e., books, manuscripts, etc.) or articles discussed in your text as additional support for or against the theory. All research material should be up-to-date.

This paper must be uploaded to the Assignment box no later than Sunday, 11:59 PM of Module 8. (This Assignment box may be linked to Turnitin.)

Prior to submitting the final draft, you may write “Free Read” on the top of your paper for a preliminary review by the instructor. You will not be penalized and the instructor will provide you with valuable feedback, however, you must submit the “Free Read” at least one week prior to the due date for the assignment.

Checklist

_____ 1. Research topic is approved by the instructor.

_____ 2. Articles cited in the paper must be published in a scientific journal (i.e., Memory and Cognition; Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory and Cognition, etc.). Refer to the list of approved journals in the syllabus.

_____ 3. Use at least two secondary sources (books, manuscripts, etc.).

_____ 3. Articles must be available in the library or electronically obtained and published
within the last three years.

4. Each page must have a short title header along with page numbers beginning with Page 2.

4. Report must be typed, double-spaced, one-inch margins, and the written type consisting of 12 point Times Roman.

5. Report is a minimum of 8 pages in length.

6. The research paper must be written in APA style (Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (Sixth Edition)).

7. Body of the article consists of:
   - Title Page (Include Title, Your Name, and Institution)
   - Purpose of the research
   - Hypothesis
   - Methodology
   - Results
   - Implications for Future Research

8. Reference page written according to APA style. This page should be numbered within the context of your paper but not to be included as a part of the ten page requirement.

9. Submit final copy to the Assignment box. (This Assignment box may be linked to Turnitin)

10. Academic Honesty. Refer to this section in the syllabus.

Grading Rubric

Rating:

Exceptional corresponds to an A (94-100%). Performance is outstanding; significantly above the usual expectations.

Proficient corresponds to a grade of B to A- (84-93%). Skills and standards are at the level of expectation.

Basic corresponds to a C to B (73-83%). Skills and standards are acceptable but improvements are needed to meet expectations well.

Novice corresponds to a D (< 73%). Performance is weak; the skills or standards are not sufficiently demonstrated at this time.

Poor corresponds to an F (59 and below). Attempt to complete assignment is either missing or extremely deficient.

0 (F) This criterion is missing or not in evidence.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Ratings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The paper extensively develops the selected theoretical issue in relation to contemporary issues in cognitive psychology</td>
<td>1 – 5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper displays an understanding of the relationships among topics in cognitive psychology</td>
<td>1 – 5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clearly identifies and logically analyzes the topic</td>
<td>1 – 5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obtains research evidence to support or refute a theoretical issue in cognitive psychology</td>
<td>1 – 5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper identifies key concepts of the learning theories and how it is applied to everyday life</td>
<td>1 – 5.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Ratings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The paper makes a connection between the selected topic and the core value of personal development, with an appropriate analysis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum of 8 pages for the body of the paper. Title Page and Reference Section not to be included in the eight page minimum</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A minimum of 6 peer-reviewed journals and two secondary sources. Wikipedia is not considered to be an acceptable or reputable source</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing and grammar are appropriate. APA style is used. Title page is included and references are accurately cited</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comments: **

Total ____ of 56