

Review material, learn something new, and improve your grade!

Several of the assignments this semester involved formats and material that were not familiar to you all. In case these circumstances lowered your grade more than you would like, this paper assignment is a way to explore a new topic of your choice and to help your grade.

1. THE OPTIONAL PAPER:

This short, 2-4 page, paper will focus on a topic that we have not addressed in the course, but might have. The assignment is to first review a topic we have discussed then to introduce new material. Examples include length contraction and the optical aberration effects of special relativity, time dilation and the task of moving synchronized clocks (it isn't easy to move a time standard!), local determinism and the Hardy experiment. These are just examples so you have some sense of what I have in mind. You should choose a topic that interests you.

The structure of the assignment will be (1) choose a topic and discuss it with me, (2) submit a complete draft to make sure we are on the same page, (3) then submit a final version. The format will be the usual one for research papers, using cited sources, etc.

2. THE AFFECT ON GRADE

The Paper Project could earn you as much as 1/2 of the total points lost on the assignments or the mid-term, whichever ever improves your final grade the most. The best papers will earn this 1/2. Papers of lower quality will earn less than that. When you submit your draft I will give you an indication of where the draft lands, and how it might be improved.

3. DEADLINES:

- November 21: Choose a topic and discuss it with me. I am happy to meet with you, or exchange email, to discuss possible projects. This process must be completed before the end of the day on November 21 (before Thanksgiving break).
- December 5: Submit a full draft of the paper.
- December 17: Final paper due

These are strict deadlines. There will be no extensions.