Discussion Leader Instructions

Every Thursday there will be a 30-minute Powerpoint presentation by discussion leaders (2-3 students, including 1 graduate student). Every member should contribute to the presentation, and the presentation should be coherent, concise, and should generate discussion among your classmates. If two people are in charge, then simply splitting the two papers into two separate presentations will NOT yield a satisfactory product. You will have to communicate before the presentation to make sure that your efforts will not be duplicated and that the product will be smoothly delivered. You should divide the presentation by the number of people involved, in terms of delivery. The presentation should mostly address the following questions:

- What scientific problem(s) do the papers address and why do we care?
- What approaches were used to address the problem?
- What are the major conclusions of the research?
- What are the main limitations and/or lingering questions associated with the research?

We recommend reading the papers at least 2 weeks in advance (also read the appropriate chapters in the book!) The lecture right before your presentation will contain material that is specifically geared towards your discussion topic, so be sure to attend and take notes. Hopefully by that point you have a good idea of the structure of your presentation and any holes in understanding will be filled by the lecture. If you have major questions about the material, try to work it out between the various presenters before meeting with Jean and I. However, we will be happy to meet with you individually or in a group to answer any major questions you may have.

The most difficult part will be to distill the research down to the main points. Too many details will take up too much time – practice your talk (ideally together) so that you know if you are too long or too short.

Your final task as discussion leaders will be to generate several discussion questions to feed a lively discussion during and after your presentation.