CSC303: Critical Review Assignment

Group & Choice of Paper due March 6th, Report due March 26th

For this assignment, you'll be working in groups of 3-4 to find and review a paper related to the course. Note that the paper must be recent (i.e. published on or after January 1st 2018), and must be either published in a journal/conference, or have been accepted to be published in a journal/conference. In other words, no arXiv preprints unless they are/will be published in a journal/conference.

I must approve your group's choice of paper in advance, otherwise you will get a mark of zero. Email me your group and choice of paper by March 6th at the latest. This deadline is in place to make sure you have time to write the review by the March 26th deadline. The 303 instructor email address in on the Quercus homepage.

I am putting an upper limit of 5 pages (excluding bibliography if included), but you are otherwise free to make your critical review as long or as short as you feel is appropriate to properly meet the requirements below. I have provided two examples of good reviews submitted in previous years. The two exemplars are around 1000 words, so it's reasonable to aim for around that length or a bit longer.

These reviews had *excellent* critiques, although the second example could have been improved with a clearer summary and explanation of new terms (e.g. key-opinion leader). Hence it would have been well-served to be a bit longer. The first review in particular went above and beyond in their critique by referring to a second paper that should have been mentioned in the literature review, and further tying this work into potential future work.

	0-50%	50-69%	70-79%	80-100%
Organization (10 points) Work flows logically, does not jump back and forth between ideas.	Contains many non-sequitors, or much jumping back and forth between ideas, or otherwise makes it difficult to follow the review.	Contains some non-sequitors, jumping back and forth between ideas, or other features that make it difficult to follow the work.	For the most part the work moves logically and smoothly. Some exceptions or areas for improvement.	Work moves logically and smoothly from point to point.
Readability (10 points) Writing style, grammar, clarity.	Many major issues with style, grammar, or clarity of explanations or ideas.	Major issues with style, grammar, or clarity of explanations or ideas.	Minor issues with style, grammar, or clarity of explanations or ideas.	Formal style, good grammar, clearly expresses ideas.
Intended Audience (10 points) Assumes reader is technically knowledgeably, but not familiar with this specific topic.	Doesn't explain new concepts, or assumes zero knowledge on the part of the reader.	Important concepts unclear, or considerable time dedicated to elementary topics.	Some minor oversights such as forgetting to introduce a minor term.	Clearly and concisely introduces new concepts (using concepts from class where possible), doesn't re-introduce course

Defines any new terms that are not from class.				material.
Summary (20 points) Criteria: 1) Identifies main claim/goal of the paper. 2) Outlines motivation if provided. 3) Briefly explains methodology. 4) Outlines key results	More than two of the criteria to the left are either missing or deviate from the paper.	One or two of the criteria to the left are missing or deviate from the paper.	Meets all criteria with some minor opportunities for improvement[1]	Meets all criteria clearly and concisely.
Critique (40 points) Criteria: 1) Refers to class material. 2) Discusses possibilities for future work or other applications that are not in the paper 3) Describes if aspects of the paper were particularly clear or unclear These points must be done in a way that demonstrates an understanding of the paper and the related course materials.	Missing any positive points about the paper, or missing any negative points about the paper, or missing at least 2 of the criteria to the left.	Includes both positive and negative aspects. The criteria are met, but not in a way that demonstrates understanding of the material (e.g. the possible future work is unrelated to the paper, or copied verbatim from the paper).	Includes both positive and negative aspects. Good, but could be better (e.g. one of the criteria is met, but is a bit shallow).	Includes both positive and negative aspects. Meaningfully includes all of the criteria (e.g. referring to course material, future work, etc…). Optionally goes beyond criteria 1-3 in the analysis, demonstrating understanding of the paper and critical thought.

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1 As a simplified example, for motivation it could be the difference between "the authors seek to find edges strength to aid link recommender systems…" vs. "the authors seek to find edges strength to improve link recommender systems. Specifically, they try to leverage structural knowledge because previous approaches have relied only on the similarity of individuals…".

Conclusion (10 points) Provides a final verdict on the paper, be it a rating (e.g. 4/5), or a written verdict (e.g. "They provided a clear characterization of the activity networks from a high-level view"). Reasons for the verdict are provided. Reasons describe various aspects of the paper (e.g. methodology, clarity of the writing, any unique or novel aspects, etc…).	Missing, or doesn't include a verdict on the paper.	Verdict either doesn't follow from the paper, or is not supported by the reasons provided.	Provides a verdict along with supporting reasons. Some minor issues (e.g. slight disagreement between conclusion and body).	Clear, concise, provides supporting reasons from the rest of the report. Ties the review together.