Literature Review Assignment (Worth 20% of course grade)

**Deadline:** Last day of class.

**Format:** The paper should be typed; font size 12; 1” margins on all sides; double spaced throughout; follow the section headers given below. Make sure you follow an approved citation format for the paper – the same one as used in your target article may be the most appropriate, though I prefer APA.

**Length:** Around 3-5 pages. The goal is to provide some suitable relevant critique rather than provide an exhaustive summary of the research. **You should include about 3-5 primary references (these are papers that you’ve actually read).**

**Relation to objectives in syllabus:** This assignment is designed to assess your progress toward objectives 1, 4, 5 (most clearly), & 6.

**Grading criteria:** You will be graded on the quality of your critique alone. The grading criteria will follow the questions I’ve supplied that one should ask when reviewing papers. The further down the list of questions you get while providing sound answers, the better the grade you get.

**Headers and Content (Follow this Structure in your paper)**

**Title**
Choose a brief title that identifies the research relationship you are investigating. Typically, you will name the independent and dependent variable(s), and some characteristic of the population/settings.

**Introduction/Rationale**
Provide a brief introduction and background for the relationship you are reviewing. Say something about the type of participants that is typically looked at, the way the independent and dependent variables are typically operationalized, the types of designs that are typically found.

**External Validity**
For the papers in your review, provide a critique of the external validity. Some factors of this critique may be pertinent to all papers (for instance, they may all use non-probabilistic sampling techniques), and some may be pertinent to just one or two (say a particular setting). If the factor is relevant to only one paper, can you use the other papers to answers questions about its effect on external validity? If you can, you should. It’s in this way that literature reviews often resolve validity issues that exist in one paper.

**Construct validity**
Do the same thing for construct validity as you did for external validity. Again, sometimes the operationalizations of the variables of interest will be similar across papers, sometimes they will differ. If they do differ then the differences may help you resolve or look deeper at certain issues of validity.

**Internal validity**
Do the same thing for internal validity as you did for external and construct validity. Again, sometimes the designs used will be similar, sometimes they will be different. The task is to provide an overall assessment of whether there is a causal relationship between the variables you are investigating.

**References**
Provide a full list of references (in APA or other approved format) used throughout the proposal. You should indicate for each paper if it is a primary reference (you read it), or secondary (you didn’t).