

Assignment: Independent Literature Review

Each student enrolled in this class for credit must complete an independent literature review on *one* of the topics discussed this semester. This literature review should:

- provide background on the problem discussed by the speaker,
- describe why it is an important problem worth addressing,
- describe the current state-of-the art methods for addressing the problem,
- describe and discuss the important engineering challenges still remaining, and
- include any other information that the student deems particularly relevant.

Submit a single hard copy to Professor Cunningham by 4:45 PM on Wednesday, 30 November.

An important part of this assignment is that I want you to learn to investigate a topic independently. This is an important skill for graduate students, particularly those who will complete a research project, thesis, and/or dissertation. One essential element of this skill is using appropriate references in your writing. Please note the following requirements:

- Papers must be written in the students' own words, and must include full bibliographic references in the form of a reference list (end notes). *Students who plagiarize will be assigned a failing grade for the class.*
- It is the students' responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism. If a student plagiarizes accidentally, it is still plagiarism, and the penalty is still a failing grade.
- You must cite at least 10 references. There is no upper limit on the number of citations, but the minimum is 10.
- References must be one of the following: published books (e.g., text books), peer-reviewed journal papers, or government reports issued by a relevant government agency (e.g., USGS, IPCC, US EPA, Department of Energy). *Web sites are not acceptable as a reference for this assignment.*

Here are some more details and requirements regarding format.

- Type your literature review in a standard word-processing program (e.g., Microsoft Word). Use double spacing, reasonably sized margins, and a reasonably sized font.
- Double-sided printing is fine (in fact, recommended) if you want to save paper.

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EVS 6920: ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLOQUIUM (ERIC)

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering

University of South Florida

Prof. Cunningham

Fall 2016

formatting, continued

- There is no minimum length requirement, but I think it might take you around 5 pages to adequately answer the necessary questions. If you can do the job well in fewer pages, that is even better; concise writing is preferable.
- There is a maximum of 10 pages. I don't want to read more than that. Any figures or tables you wish to include must fit in those 10 pages, but your list of references does not count against the 10-page maximum.
- For your citations and reference list, use the format of either *Environmental Science & Technology* or *Environmental Engineering Science*. These are two of the premier journals in our field. You may choose which format you prefer. Find yourself a recent copy of one of these journals so you can familiarize yourself with the format of the citations and reference list.

If you have additional questions, please ask me.