Peer Review Instructions

We will spend two class sessions doing peer review. Each of you will be reviewing three of your classmates’ proposals for technical merit and ethical appropriateness.

Peer Review Guidelines

1. Carefully read each proposal you are assigned. Make comments and corrections on the proposal.

2. Write your own comments to use in a panel discussion of the proposal. Each panel will consist of 3 individuals. The author of the proposal may not speak. In addition the instructor should not speak during the review. After the review is complete (20 to 30 minutes) the panel may address questions to the author of the proposal and/or the instructor. Panel will:

   - Summarize the proposed hypothesis and methods.
   - Evaluate the research design (methods of study) identifying weaknesses and suggesting improvements.
   - Evaluate the ethical principles of the proposed study, identifying weaknesses and suggesting improvements.

3. The panel should address the above issues. Remarks about grammar, spelling, and other "knit picking" should be done on the proposal in writing, but not in the panel discussion. The purpose of peer review is to provide the author of the proposal with feedback that will produce the best possible research. The worst peer review is one that is superficial because the problems that are glossed over will surface by the end of the term. Reviewers and researcher are responsible to identify obvious problems while they can be corrected.

4. Peer reviewers will be graded in terms of effort. If you participate responsibly in the review you receive full credit. If you miss class you let down your co-reviewers and the author of the proposals you are assigned to review. There is no way to make up this class.