

**TOPICAL REVIEW ASSIGNMENT
INTELLIGENT TUTORING SYSTEMS
PROFESSOR RYAN BAKER**

For the topical review, every student will select a course topic and prepare a presentation of this topic, using an asynchronous learning technology or asynchronous communication technology of your choice. This presentation should represent a comprehensive discussion of the topic, its history of research in the field, key findings, and key open questions or challenges.

This assignment will be due according to the course syllabus – each topic will be due exactly five days before it is covered in synchronous class (i.e. exactly 120 hours before class starts). This assignment may be individual or conducted in a group, depending on class size. After you post this presentation, your classmates (and I) will comment on your presentation and ask questions, and you will lead a discussion of the topic in the discussion forum.

PART ONE: SIGN UP FOR A TOPIC

DUE DATE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1159PM USA EASTERN TIME

Your first task is to sign up for a topic. Use the sign-up sheet at this link

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LOppdqQdxvVrbGQ3qbZGPxqW8Uyw4t1dOjZksFLYhLc/edit?usp=sharing>

Based on class size at the time of this writing, I anticipate that every topic will have a group of two students working on it. Groups of three students are acceptable, but only if every topic has at least two students signed up.

PART TWO: CREATE YOUR PRESENTATION OF THE MATERIAL

DUE DATE: SEE SIGNUP SHEET

Prepare a presentation of your topic, using an asynchronous learning technology or asynchronous communication technology of your choice. For example, this assignment could be completed by creating slides with video and/or audio, a webpage, an intelligent tutoring system, or a game. This presentation should represent a comprehensive discussion of the topic, its history of research in the field, key findings, and key open questions or challenges.

There is no set format. However, here are a few *optional* questions you could consider.

- **What are the goals?**
 - Why is this type of intelligent tutoring technology worth developing?
 - What would it accomplish if it worked?
 - How would it make education better (not necessarily just in terms of improved learning)?
 - How will it impact education as a system?

- **How does it work?**
How does the ITS technology within your topic function to achieve its goals?
Does it simulate some instructional/learning behavior?
Does it simulate some capacity that human teachers/tutors/peers have?
- **Does it work?**
Right now, is this technology meeting its potential?
In what ways is it failing or succeeding?
How do we know/how would we know if it is achieving its goals?
- **Progress and going forward**
What are the debates and controversies, if any?
What are the challenges, and open questions for research and development?

Turning in the topical review late will impact your classmates' learning experiences, so any delay will result in a 20% penalty on the assignment, which will increase as the assignment gets later. *You are strongly recommended to complete your topical review early* so that disruptions in the world (which we can all expect) do not impact your classmates. *This is not the sort of assignment that you should start two days before the due date.*

Please create a thread in Piazza within the folder dedicated to your week's topic. Within that thread, please create a post which includes your resource or a link to your resource.

PART THREE: RESPOND TO YOUR CLASSMATES' POSTS

You are expected to provide at least two substantive comments several lines long on at least 10 topical reviews (other than your own, of course). Your comments should be targeted towards the content of the review (and the topic it describes) rather than on the presentation. Your posts must offer a critical and meaningful perspective on the topic. (i.e. "Affect detection models are COOOOOOL" is not sufficient, even if it is true).

To count towards your grade, your posts for topical reviews must be submitted before the class when the topic is discussed – in the unfortunate event that a topical review is late, you will have five days to comment after the topical review has been posted.