cs294: Statistical Natural Language Processing
Final Project Guidelines

Final Projects: Final projects will entail original investigation into any area of statistical natural language processing, defined very broadly. That means that machine learning over text, HCI, language-vision interfaces, and so on, are all fair topics, in addition to the core NLP topics.

Scope: As a broad target, final projects should involve approximately as much work as two homework assignments. For groups of more than one person, the total work should scale roughly linearly with the group size, and be distributed roughly equally. An ambitious, well-done project from a group of two or more (or shared between two or more classes) should be on the order of a conference paper in depth of experimentation.

Grading and Milestones: The milestones will be:

Apr 9th	Abstracts due
Apr 23rd	Preliminary results due
Apr 30th	In-class presentations
May 18th	Final reports due

The abstract is just a short paragraph telling me who's in your group, describing the problem you've chosen, sketching the general approach you intend to take and the kinds of data you're going to need. If you haven't already spoken to me about project ideas, you should make an appointment and do so before this point (also, please feel free to use the newsgroup to form groups and bounce around ideas). The abstract mainly serves to give me a chance to make sure you're on a good track.

The preliminary reports should be 1-2 pages convincing me that your basic implementation is underway, you've got some results and baselines, and you're in sight of finishing.

In the last few classes, each group will give short presentations on what they've accomplished (~15 minutes each). The final write-up should be on the order of 6-8 pages describing your approach, results, data analysis, and so on. Submission of the milestones is required, but you will only receive a grade at the end, based on your write-ups and presentation. Under normal circumstances, all group members will receive the same grade for the final project. Late days will not apply to the final reports (since I do have to get your grades in to the university).

Ideas: You are welcome to come up with your own topics – some of you already may have done so. You are also welcome to come by my office hours to get ideas from me.

Paper presentation as an alternative: If you are taking the 3-unit version of this course, you can instead present a paper chosen jointly by me and you (also on the last few days of class). If you intend to take this route, come by my office hours to discuss paper choices.