Your final grade for this course will obtained from 3 Exams (26% each, 78% total) and from Class Participation (22%). The 22% for class participation consists of 12% paper discussions + 10% class presentation. You are expected to attend regular and guest lectures, as well as all student presentations.

Paper discussions (12%)
You are expected to attend classes devoted to discussion of selected papers. A total of 6 papers will be discussed, with each one worth 2%. You get credit for coming to class having read the paper and being prepared to ask and/or answer questions about it. If you are absent for a paper discussion and want to make it up, you must email me within 48 hours after the missed class with a valid reason for your absence. To make it up, I will send you questions about the article which you should answer (using your own words, not by copying and pasting text from the article) and then email back to me within one week of the missed class. To encourage in-class participation, make-ups will provide full credit (2%) only for one absence, and half credit (1%) after that (unless there are exceptional circumstances*).

Class presentation (10%)
This is an approximately 10 minute (depending on class size, exact time will be announced) conference-style oral presentation of a research (not review) paper using Powerpoint that will be presented during the later part of the semester. (Powerpoint is preferred, but if you do not have it, you can download LibreOffice for free and create a presentation). The score for this will be determined from inclusion of required elements (Intro, Methods, Results, Discussion, 3%), adherence to presentation time constraints (2%), adherence to announced deadlines (e.g., emailing selected paper to me for approval, sending me your final powerpoint file, 2%) and quality/clarity of presentation (3%). Further instructions regarding the format of the presentation and other details will be given in class.

*Exceptional circumstances
Please contact me if you have undergone a hardship that warrants re-consideration of my absence policies. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may require documentation.

Typical Grade Scale:

Grade	Percentage
A+	≥ 99%
A	≥ 92%
A-	≥ 90%
B+	≥ 88%
B	≥ 82%
B-	≥ 80%
C+	≥ 78%
C	≥ 72%
C-	≥ 70%
D+	≥ 68%
D	≥ 62%
D-	≥ 60%
F	< 60%