What is a journal review?
A journal review provides a critical look at a journal article. In about 5 pages (single-sided, double spaced) you should present a brief overview and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the article. By describing, discussing and interpreting the article you give other readers the ability to assess the value of the article that you reviewed.

How to write a journal review?
For this course you need to write 2 journal reviews (worth 5% each). Writing them doesn't have to be difficult. You can follow a series of steps to make things easier for yourself.

Step 1 - Finding a good article
The best article will be one that is:

- **Interesting** (it's much easier to write a review if you aren't falling asleep)
- **Relevant to the course** (look for one that applies dimensional analysis or DOE methods to an engineering problem)
- **One that you can understand** (some will likely be over your head)

You can go on-line to browse through journals. Try searching for keywords like: design of experiments, factorial designs, and response surface methodology.

Step 2 - Before you read the article
Think about the title (what does it lead you to believe the article is about?), check out the abstract and the authors name (who are they? do other authors often reference his or her work in this field?)

Step 3 - When reading the article
First time around just read through (don't write anything down). You might write notes on:
- who is the intended audience?
- what is the purpose of the article?
- what are the main points?
- what are the main conclusions?

Step 4 - Prepare an outline
Go through your notes and get a main idea together for your review (i.e. the author did this kind of experiment but he should have done this ...)

Step 5 - Write the rough draft
Make sure you include the Title, Author, Journal Name, Volume and Year of the paper being reviewed. Give a brief description of the article. Describe the techniques and how they were carried out. Discuss the conclusions and **don't forget to give your opinions** on the method used and the results (i.e. would you have done it differently? was it useful? did you learn anything?)

Step 6 - Submit the final draft
Your final draft needs to be 4 to 5 pages (not including a cover page and a table of contents). Don't forget to attach the article that you reviewed!

Richard Harvey
If you have any questions e-mail me at: rich.nfld@gmail.com