Guidelines for the final project paper

Here are some suggested guidelines for the final paper, as a follow up to the several discussions we have had during class.

1) **Size:** The recommended size and format of the paper is the equivalent of a letter submitted to a Journal. This could be from three to a maximum of four pages in print, with reference to the format of a letter published on IEEE Electron Device Letters or Applied Physics Letters, for instance. For students familiar with a Journal templates it is good to use such a format, but it is by no means mandatory. A plain college paper format is equally acceptable. This could be roughly ten to twelve pages double spaced. For those of you who have taken the PhD qualifying exam, the format of the document required for that could be a useful guideline.

2) **Content:** The paper should have the following items/sections
   - Title
   - Name of the student & UIN ( + Your laboratory affiliation optional)
   - Abstract
   - Introduction
   - Several sections as needed to expand on the chosen topic of study
   - Conclusions
   - List of relevant references

   There is the expectations that some figures will be included. These may be taken from publications or online resources as appropriate but please, always provide provenance information in the caption. Roughly, the space allocated to figures should not exceed 1/3 of the total paper length.

   Generally, you should be careful not to “lift” significant portions of verbiage from the existing literature, but to use your own words. If you feel that it is necessary to include some *verbatim* paragraphs taken from the sources you consult, you should put them in quotes and provide the reference. Always use good judgment and common sense.

   In any section of the paper and particularly in the Conclusions, your own personal impressions and opinions/outlook on the topic are welcome. Make an effort to express such personal comments, if you provide them, in a professional manner and not in a casual one. This writing assignment is meant to be “practice” toward your professional development. In this vein, make also an effort to be neat (easier if you use a template) and to be careful with grammar/spelling to put the reader in a good mood.

3) **Timeline:** Ideally, the paper should be due on the day of the exam but it is acceptable if it is submitted no later than the end of finals week (5:00pm on Friday, May 14). In case you expect a further delay, then you should advise me by email explaining briefly your circumstances. For a delay beyond the deadline for grade submission, then I could assign an incomplete grade, until your paper is submitted, but we need to have a conversation since this should not be considered an automatic default option. Nonetheless, I always stress that while deadlines are important, I am more interested in you learning so I would rather receive a late paper than none at all.