

Project instructions

By this point, most of you are advanced students and are beginning to formulate your post-Carthage plans. This assignment gives you considerable flexibility to choose one of several options that will be best for your particular goals.

Option 1: Traditional term paper (individual)

Write a paper on a topic of your choice, subject to my approval and related to the course material. Here are a few suggested topic starters (your topic will refine as you read and think more about it):

- Discuss the pros and cons of capital controls for a developing country.
- Analyze a developing country experiencing an exchange rate crisis.
- Assess the likelihood that the developing country of your choice (not currently in crisis) will experience an exchange rate crisis.
- Discuss international dimensions of the current financial crisis. Examples: Why did so many countries develop similar crises at about the same time? To what extent, and how, has the U.S. “exported” financial problems to other countries?
- Provide historical background and analysis of the Euro. What was the impetus for monetary union in Europe? What are the advantages of a common currency? Are there disadvantages?
- Explore the financial aspects of globalization. What are the potential gains? What conditions must be in place to realize the gains? Discuss examples of countries that have and have not met these conditions.

To choose your topic, you will need to spend at least an afternoon finding and reading good articles about something you're interested in, taking notes, and formulating your thoughts. This paper cannot be used for any other course, past or present, though if you will be a senior in Fall 2009, I encourage you to use it as a first step toward a senior thesis. Your paper should be 6-8 double-spaced, typed pages, not including any tables, graphs, or other figures. Your paper should also include a title page, abstract (a summary paragraph), and an annotated bibliography comprised of reputable sources. The completed paper is due via email by 5:00pm Monday May 11. See our website for intermediate deadlines and formatting instructions.

Option 2: Empirical analysis of country or region (group presentation and report)

A group of three students will obtain and analyze macroeconomic and international data on a country or region. Prepare a variety of graphs and tables of descriptive statistics from data on key variables, such as: GDP and its components, the current account, inflation, exchange rates, the government budget deficit, capital inflows and outflows. Discuss the behavior of your data in the context of material covered in this course: is this behavior consistent with the models and theories from our textbook? When it isn't, try to offer possible explanations for the discrepancies (e.g., does the model make an assumption that doesn't apply? Does the model fail? Are the data subject to some type of non-neutral measurement error?). Your group will have 15-25 minutes for its presentation (depending on the number of presentations) and will be scheduled during the final weeks of the semester. Your presentation should include background information, lots of graphs, and analysis, and should allow time for questions from the class. Your group will submit a written report (about 5 pages plus

graphs/diagrams and a title page), though you will have time after the presentation to incorporate any useful feedback you receive from the class.

Option 3: Regression analysis (for students taking ECON 334)

Working by yourself or with one other student, find the data needed to estimate relationships between variables discussed in the textbook. Use regression analysis. Present your findings in class. Your presentation should include background information, a discussion of the relationships you estimate, a discussion of your data sources, presentation and interpretation of your findings, and conclusions/implications. Allow time for questions. After your presentation, you will have five days to complete your written report, which should be approximately 6-8 pages (not including tables, graphs, figures, a cover page, and a bibliography if appropriate). Your presentation will be scheduled during the final weeks of the semester.

Option 4: Critical book review (individual)

Choose one of these books: *The Return of Depression Economics and the Crisis of 2008*, by Paul Krugman, or *Fixing Global Finance*, by Martin Wolf. Read the book carefully, taking lots of notes. Write a 6-8 page paper discussing what you learned from the book. What are its main lessons? What interesting peripheral information did you learn? Are any parts of the book inconsistent with material we are learning from our textbook? Do you agree or disagree with any of the author's conclusions?

General requirements and guidelines

- All written items (reports, papers, whatever) must be typed and double-spaced. Pages after the cover sheet must be numbered, starting with 1. The presentation/appearance of your work must be neat and professional, and the format should be consistent, though I do not require any particular format (e.g. MLA, APA, etc).
- Email your paper or report to me by its due date in the form of a single Microsoft Word file.
- Where a choice of topic is involved, the choice should be informed by background reading and much careful thinking on your part.
- Any graphs you create should be reader-friendly.
- Regardless of the option you choose, be prepared to speak to the class for a few minutes about your work.
- Exercise good judgment about sources. Cite internet sources correctly.
- Write well. Use the Carthage Writing Center if necessary. Good writing is important.
- When an author has a great idea that will add impact to your paper, or when an author expresses something very eloquently or powerfully, it's fine for you to include the idea or the quote in your paper. Just give proper credit to the author.
- Avoid overusing the words and ideas of others. Ultimately, I'm interested in what YOU think about the issue. Don't merely string together a series of quotes or paraphrased passages from other sources; it risks giving your reader the impression that you don't know the subject well enough to write your own thoughts in your own words. Don't provide direct quotes or paraphrase passages from others when they do not add impact to your paper. Use quotes sparingly and only when their inclusion makes your paper more effective.