

Guidelines for Course Project

Your project must be on an economics topic. The focus of the project is on the technical rather than the substantive side. Therefore you need not develop an especially large dataset, but you must address one or more of the modeling issues discussed in the course (and/or in one or both of the textbooks). Think of this as a more involved, better-motivated Econ 300 project.

Your project proposal should be one or two pages in length. It should clearly state:

- 1) the general subject that you intend to tackle
- 2) the specific hypothesis or hypotheses you are testing
- 3) exactly what and where the data are that you intend to use

You may wish to include a bibliography of papers/data sources that you have consulted.

I strongly suggest that you run your idea by me first. Also, please come see me early on if you are having trouble thinking of what to do. You may also want to make an appointment with a reference librarian for help in finding data. If you are considering combining any part of this project with work for another course, I and the other instructor must be informed of this plan.

More thorough projects will receive higher grades than less thorough projects. Thoroughness is defined as considering what econometrics problems may be encountered in testing the specific hypotheses, and addressing those problems through formal testing and appropriate choices of econometric techniques. Most projects will build on some existing literature in economics and thus will explicitly discuss some economic research, but this is not a strict requirement.

Deadlines

The project proposal is due no later than Tuesday April 7 by 6 p.m. as an email attachment (to jjacobsen@wesleyan.edu). Use .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .rtf for your file format. Proposals aren't graded, but you have to have one okayed by me in order to be able to turn in your project. If you change your project later, you have to file a new proposal and get it okayed.

The project is due on or before Wednesday May 6, but you have an automatic extension to Monday May 12, no later than 6 p.m, without penalty. If I receive your project any time between Monday at 6 pm and Tuesday at noon, it receives a four-point penalty. After that there will be an additional penalty of one point off per hour (or fraction thereof), which means any projects received after noon on Saturday May 16 get a zero. Send me the project as an email attachment, using one of the above file formats. I archive them for reference purposes. You must include as an appendix a Stata program (the text from a .do file) that, if run on your data, would generate all the results discussed in your paper.

Contest

I will nominate the best papers from the class for the economics department's Lebergott-Lovell Prize, where they will compete against the best papers from last semester's 385 class and other nominated papers from electives. The winner and two honorable mentions will receive \$ and be able to list this honor on their resumes. The judges are me, Prof. Hornstein, and Prof. Keats.