

University of Nebraska at Omaha
Department of Economics

Course: ECON 4290/8296, Research Methods in Economics and Business

Term & Schedule: Fall 2011, Wednesday, 6-8:40 pm, MH 319

Professor: Dr. Catherine Y. Co

Office: MH 332R

Office Hours: Mon. 2:45-3:45 pm; Wed. 4:30-5:30 pm, or by appointment

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When sending e-mail to me be sure to write "Research Methods" in the subject heading. Otherwise, your messages may be tagged as spam. Also, I occasionally send messages to the class and will be using your UNO e-mail address (or the e-mail address on UNO's Blackboard system). Thus, be sure to check your e-mail account regularly.

Catalogue Description:

Covers the methodology of economics, choosing a topic, literature search tools, clear writing, data sources, summarizing data in tables and graphs, basic data analysis using statistical packages, and use of the internet and World Wide Web. Students will become familiar with these techniques through text materials, journal studies, and actual application.

Prerequisites are designed to protect you from taking courses that you are unprepared to successfully complete. You are expected to have mastered the materials covered in ECON 2200 (Prin. of Economics-Micro) and ECON 2220 (Prin. of Economics- Macro).

Required/Recommended Texts:

Greenlaw, Steven A. *Doing Economics: A Guide to Understanding and Carrying Out Economic Research*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006. (Required; ISBN#0-618-37983-5)

Venolia, Jan. *Write Right! A Desktop Digest of Punctuation, Grammar and Style, 4th Edition*. Berkeley: Ten Speed Press, 2001. (Highly recommended; ISBN#1-58008-328-5)

Lecture Notes/Supplementary Materials:

These are available at the class's Blackboard page, go to <https://blackboard.unomaha.edu/>

Additional Reading Materials (Journal Articles):

See page 8 of the syllabus for the list. These are available on the library's **Electronic Reserves** at <http://eres.unomaha.edu/>. The password to access these materials is _____.

Statistical Software Packages:

You will be introduced to two commonly used statistical software packages: EViews (version 7) and SAS (version 9). These are available at the open CBA lab (2nd floor). The student version of EViews (version 6) is available from the University bookstore or at www.eviews.com. Besides these statistical programs, you also need to be proficient in Microsoft Excel and Microsoft PowerPoint.

Miscellaneous Materials:

You need a flash drive for use during in-class computer exercises. You also need a folder (with two inside pockets) to keep all graded components of the empirical research project. This folder needs to be turned in when a component of the project becomes due. Failure to include all prior graded components will result in a five percentage point deduction. For example, when you turn in the **Literature Review** (placed in the right pocket of the folder), the folder must also contain the graded **Proposal Report** (left pocket). If not, five percentage points will be deducted from your grade (for the **Literature Review**).

Course Grade: (Graduate Students)

2 Exams (10% each)	20%
In-Class Exercises and Participation	10%
Empirical Research Project (4 components) ^{1/}	
Part A. Proposal Report (& Presentation) ^{2/}	10%
Part B. Literature Review	25%
Part C. Data & Descriptive Data Report	5%
Part D. Research Paper (& Oral Presentation) ^{2/}	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

Course Grade: (Undergraduate Students)

2 Exams (10% and 15%, respectively)	25%
In-Class Exercises and Participation	10%
Empirical Research Project (4 components) ^{1/}	
Part A. Proposal Report (& Presentation) ^{2/}	10%
Part B. Literature Review	20%
Part C. Data & Descriptive Data Report	10%
Part D. Research Paper (& Oral Presentation) ^{2/}	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%

Notes: ^{1/}Ten percentage points will be deducted from your grade for each day this item is submitted late. For example, if your work receives a grade of 90% but you turned it in one day late (**Note: Submissions within a 24-hour period after 6 pm of the due date is considered one day late**), then you will receive a grade of 80%. For those items with written and presentation components, this rule applies to the written component only. **No late presentations are allowed.** ^{2/}The weights for the written and oral presentation components are 80% and 20%, respectively.

Note: A distinction will be made between graduate and undergraduate students in grading all work.

Grading Scale for the Course:

A+: 97-100%; **A:** 93-96%; **A-:** 90-92%; **B+:** 87-89%; **B:** 83-86%; **B-:** 80-82%; **C+:** 75-79%; **C:** 70-74%; **D+:** 67-69%; **D:** 63-66%; **D-:** 60-62%; **F:** less than 60%

Early Exams:

If you know ahead of time that you will not be able to make it to an exam because of scheduled University-sponsored activities or job-related obligations, let me know as soon as possible and we can arrange for you to take the exam **early**. You will also need to present written documentation for the reason behind this request. If you missed an exam without prior notification, you will receive a **zero**. Only upon presentation of a **legitimate** and **verifiable** excuse will I reconsider this rule.

Exam 1 requires that you collect/extract data from the internet; use one of the statistical software packages to summarize data using figures, descriptive statistics, and correlations; and, write a report analyzing the data. This is a combination hands-on software and methodology exam.

Exam 2 consists of two parts. First, I will give you a journal article to read and a series of questions based on the article will be asked in the first part of the exam. This tests your basic understanding of regression analysis. The second part involves hands-on computer work. I will give you a data set, you will estimate an econometric model, and provide practical interpretations of the regression results.

"Accommodations are provided for students with verified disabilities." For more information, contact UNO's Disability Services Office (402)554-2872 or go to <http://www.unomaha.edu/disability/>.

Attendance, In-Class Exercises, and Participation:

Although I do not check attendance, I strongly recommend that you attend class regularly. Class participation is part of your grade and you obviously cannot participate if you are not present. You are expected to participate in discussions of all assigned readings. These readings use statistical and regression techniques and knowing these techniques will increase your marketability as an economist or business professional. This component of your grade also depends on the suggestions and comments you give on your classmates' project proposals and research presentations. Finally, your performance on several in-class computer exercises will also determine this component of your grade.

Empirical Research Project:

I believe you will learn more about what research is by actually carrying out one. You are free to choose any topic (but you need my approval). Abstracts of all student papers written in the last few years are available at my homepage at <http://cba.unomaha.edu/faculty/CatheCo/WEB/index.html>.

The project requires that you formulate an economic question, conduct a literature review, build an econometric model, collect data, estimate an econometric model, and present your results.

You should consult this syllabus (for requirements, writing and referencing styles, and tips/checklist) before you write any section of the paper. Paper content, clarity in writing, and adherence to the requirements listed in the syllabus (and to those discussed in the handouts and in-class discussions) affect your grade.

Writing and referencing styles are briefly discussed here. See all handouts that will be provided throughout the semester for details (e.g., Handout: In-Text Referencing Style Guide, Handout: Reference List Style Guide). Also refer to the page labeled "tips/checklist" at the end of the syllabus for additional guidance on how to write the paper.

When writing any component of the research project, you need to be aware of your responsibility to acknowledge all sources (e.g., journal articles, books) completely and appropriately. Failure to acknowledge sources completely and appropriately is to plagiarize and is subject to disciplinary action. In the first instance, submitted work will receive a grade of zero. Any student who plagiarizes more than once will receive an F for the course, and a recommendation will be made to the Economics Graduate/Undergraduate Program Committee that the student be dismissed from the program.

"The Modern Language Association's 1975 definition of plagiarism:

Plagiarism may take the form of repeating another's sentences as your own, adopting a particularly apt phrase as your own, paraphrasing someone else's argument as your own or even presenting someone else's line of thinking in the development of a thesis as though it were your own. In short, to plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written or thought something that you have in fact borrowed from another. Though a writer may use other person's words and thought, they must be acknowledged as such." (as quoted in Morgan and Reynolds, 1997).

Empirical Research Project Components (4 Parts)

Please be sure to adhere to the limits set for each component. I will only read what you submit up to the page limit. For example, the limit for the **Literature Review** (Part B below) is six pages. If you turn in seven pages, I will **only** read the first six pages and your grade will be based on these pages.

Part A. Proposal Report (& Presentation)

First, you will submit a written research proposal for my approval.

Proposal Report Contents

Up to three pages in length (double-spaced, 12 point Times Roman font), see **Handout: In-Text Referencing Style Guide**, **Handout: Reference List Style Guide**, and **“Tips/Checklist”** for writing, referencing, and paper presentation styles.

Your written proposal report must include/discuss the following: (Also refer to our in-class discussions.)

- Tentative title for your study.
- A precise description of the research question(s) that you will investigate.
- Why is (are) this (these) question(s) interesting or of importance? That is, provide a motivation for why you chose to study this (these) question(s).
- It should be clear in your proposal whether your study is a cross-section or a time-series study. For example, if it is a cross-section study then you need to indicate whether you will be studying countries, individuals, companies, etc. If it is a time-series study, then you need to mention if you will be using annual, monthly, daily, etc. data.
- Tentative formulation of the econometric model you will estimate:
 - What is the dependent variable? How will this be measured?
 - What are the independent variables? How will these be measured?
 - What are your *a priori* expectations as to how the dependent variable is correlated with each of the independent variables? In other words, what does economic theory (and/or economic intuition) suggest about the relationship between these variables? Positive? Negative? Ambiguous? Provide the explanations as to why the relationship is expected to be positive, negative, or ambiguous.
 - Please note that the explanations you provide must come from your literature review or readings of prior work. Hence, you should acknowledge “which” (or “whose”) theories led to your *a priori* expectations. In other words, it should be clear in your proposal report how the studies you have read contributed to the formulation of your econometric model.
- Include a **Reference page** (not counted towards the three-page limit) listing all the materials you have read so far (see **Handout: Reference List Style Guide**). **Note:** List only those that you have actually read.

Note: The proposal should **not** be written as a bulleted list addressing the points above but must be written in paragraph form.

Prepare a **six-minute** oral presentation of your research. Use only two to three pages of Microsoft PowerPoint slides. Include the tentative title for your study; and, the tentative econometric model you will estimate. Be prepared to answer questions after your presentation.

Part B. Literature Review

Before you begin part B, you should have conducted a **thorough** review of the literature related to your research. In other words, you must have read prior research related to your topic. From all these readings, choose **five** of the most important papers you have read. The **five** papers that you review must all be scholarly publications (e.g., published journal articles or academic working papers) and not newspaper or magazine articles. Also, do not choose a survey article for this purpose—it does not make sense to review a study that reviews the literature.

The main objective of the literature review is to let your readers know what has been done before and how your study “fits” in the literature. It must be a **synthesis** of “old” and “new.” In other words, “What has been done before?”, “How are these prior work related to each other?”, “How does your research relate to the literature?” (That is, what is your contribution?)

At the minimum, the literature review must include the following:

- A description of the research questions addressed by the **five** papers you chose.
- How are they related to each other and to your research?
- If an empirical paper, what data did they use (e.g., U.S. states for years between 1929 and 1999)?
- What are their main findings? Are the results consistent with each other? Or, are they contradictory?

Usually five to six pages in length (double-spaced, 12 point Times Roman font), see **Handout: In-Text Referencing Style Guide** and “**Tips/Checklist**” for writing, referencing, and paper presentation styles. Include a reference page (not counted towards the six-page limit) listing these five papers (see **Handout: Reference List Style Guide**).

Note: You must treat these five papers “equally.” For example, do not write four pages reviewing one paper and two pages reviewing the other four papers.

Note: Turn-in hard copies of these five papers when you submit your **Literature Review**.

Besides these five studies, I will also need to know what you have read to date; thus, include another **Reference page** listing all the other materials you have read so far (see **Handout: Reference List Style Guide**). **Note:** List only those that you have actually read.

Please note that you will review only the five most important papers for Part B; however, the literature review section of the completed paper (see Part D below) should include all relevant studies (not just these five papers).

Part C. Data and Descriptive Data Report

The third component of the empirical project requires you to submit a **hard copy** (not required for projects with 500 or more observations) and **digital copy** of your data saved in Excel format, a detailed description of each of the variables and where these data came from.

Note: Use your last name for your data file (e.g., CoData.xls). Also, place your dependent variable before your independent variables. And, be sure to include an observation identifier (either the time period or country/state/company name) in the first column of the data file.

You must also submit (in hardcopy form using EViews) the descriptive statistics and correlations of all variables and scatter diagrams of the dependent variable against each of the independent variables. If you are working with cross-section data, turn in the histograms of each of the variables too; if you are working with time series data, turn in the time plots of each of the variables too. Be sure that you “know” your data; I will ask you a series of questions when you turn this in. For example, I can ask you which observation gives you the maximum value of a certain variable, etc.

Arrange your submission as follows: Variable description and sources, descriptive statistics, histograms or time plots, correlations, scatter diagrams, and data.

Three examples of data description and source appear below:

GSP is gross state product in 2008, in current dollars. The data are from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce. These are available at <http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/gsp/>.

Note: The bold item is the name you gave the variable (**GSP**). This is followed by the exact description of the variable (gross state product), the year of the data (2008), and how it is measured (current dollars). **GSP** is downloaded from a website; thus, include the exact URL address where the data can be found by a third-party.

AGRIX (AGRIM) is US agricultural exports (imports) from 1970-2008, in billions of dollars. The data are taken from the US Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2010 (129th Edition) Washington, DC, 2009. These are available at

http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/agriculture/agricultural_exports_and_imports.html

Note: Although you found the data on the web, it appears in a publication, so include the complete citation of the publication as above.

POLRIGHT is an index capturing countries' political rights regime in 2009. Countries with a rating of 1 ensure freedom of expression, assembly, association, education, and religion while countries with a rating of 7 essentially have no freedom. Freedom House is the source of the political rights index, available at <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=439>.

Part D. Completed Research Paper (& Presentation)

The research paper should **not** exceed 15 pages (double-spaced, 12 point Times Roman font). This limit excludes the title page, data appendix, references, tables, and figures.

Research Paper Contents

Your paper must include a title page containing the title of the paper, your name, and abstract. At the bottom of the page, include the course number and title and date of completion. See **Handout: Sample Title Page**.

The abstract must be no more than 150 words. An abstract typically summarizes what you did (research question; data coverage) and your main findings. See **Handout: How to Write an Abstract** by K. Small.

Consult this syllabus (for requirements, writing and referencing styles, and tips/checklist) as you write the paper. Paper content, clarity in writing, and adherence to the requirements listed in the syllabus (and to those discussed in the Handouts) affect your grade.

Writing and referencing styles are briefly discussed here. See all handouts provided throughout the semester for details (e.g., Handout: In-Text Referencing Style Guide, Handout: Reference List Style Guide). Also refer to the page labeled "tips/checklist" at the end of the syllabus for additional guidance on how to write the paper.

Your research paper should contain all these sections which must appear sequentially: Please use these section headings for your paper. **Note:** The completed paper that you submit must not be the first draft; in other words, you should have revised the paper several times before you turn it in. Make sure that the completed paper contains all the requirements (title page, abstract, text, etc.). Also, by the time you turn it in, the document must be free of misspellings; uses the appropriate referencing style; contains a complete reference list; and so on. Most importantly, you need to make sure that your arguments are clear,

consistent, and solid. And that you have referenced all materials accordingly. Finally, read Chapter 12 of Greenlaw's book for additional hints on how to write the paper.

1. Introduction and Review of Literature

Introduction: Rewrite your proposal—some parts can serve as the introduction to your paper. Be sure to incorporate all suggestions I made to your proposal report. Also, include any background information you think is necessary to motivate your paper; that is, why should the reader care about your paper? Why is it interesting? Include a brief summary of your findings here.

Review of Literature: Rewrite your submitted **Part B: Literature Review** and expand it beyond the five papers. That is, include all other relevant papers you have read. Be sure to incorporate all suggestions I made to your earlier submission. Note that when you write this section, each paper need not be reviewed in detail. You should only highlight each paper's important points; and, how they relate to each other and to your study.

Before you write section 2, be sure to mention briefly how the rest of paper proceeds.

2. Empirical Model: This should be an extensive discussion of your econometric model. In this section, you should formulate and describe your model. What is the model's dependent variable? What are the independent variables? Why did you include each of the independent variables in the model? What are your *a priori* expectations as to how the dependent variable is correlated with each of the independent variables? In other words, what does economic theory (and/or economic intuition) suggest about the relationship between these variables? Answers to these questions will come from your literature review or readings of prior work. Hence, you should acknowledge "which" (or "whose") theories led to your *a priori* expectations. Some parts of **Part A. Proposal Report** can be used here. Be sure to incorporate any comments I made to your earlier submission.

3. Analysis of Results: Before you present your regression estimates, discuss briefly the data you used and refer the reader to the **Data Appendix** for details and then discuss the descriptive statistics and correlations of the variables. Be sure to summarize output from your software into Tables (See item #7 below). Then comment on the R-square, F-stat, and the t-stats of the regression. Interpret statistically significant coefficient estimates. What do they mean practically? Comment on the economic (as opposed to statistical) significance of the coefficient estimates. Are your results consistent with your *a priori* expectations and with prior research? Why? Or, why not? **Note:** This is an important section of the completed paper; thus, you must devote enough space to this section.

4. Concluding Remarks: Summarize your main findings. What do your findings tell us about the economic issue(s) you studied? What did you learn that you did not know before you conducted this research? What are the policy implications of your findings? Mention some of limitations of your research here. Offer possible extensions to your research to address these limitations.

5. Data Appendix: This section contains a detailed description of each of the variables you use and where these data came from (see **Part C: Data and Data Descriptive Report**). Be sure to incorporate any comments I made to your earlier submission.

6. References: List journal articles, books, working papers, and other materials you used in writing the paper. **Note:** Any study you read but did not cite in the text of your paper should not be listed here. See **Handout: Reference List Style Guide**.

7. Tables: Do not submit output from your software; summarize these into Tables. Descriptive statistics (Table 1), correlations (Table 2), and regression results (Table 3) are required items. Each table must be

numbered (using Arabic Numerals) and given a title. Do not place the tables in the text of the paper. Rather, place each table in a separate page after the reference list. In the text of the paper, include a statement such as “**Table 1 near here**” (bold and centered) to refer to its approximate location in the text. Depending on the units of measurement of your data, you may use one to three decimal places in your presentation. Be consistent in the preparation of the Tables. Feel free to renumber the tables if you are adding other relevant tables. Tables must be referred to in the text sequentially.

8. Figures: Not required. Use discretion as to what graphs you want to include to strengthen your arguments, or to clarify your points. Each figure must be numbered (using Arabic Numerals) and given a title. Do not place them in the text of the paper. Rather place each figure in a separate page after all Tables. In the text of the paper, include a statement such as “**Figure 1 near here**” (bold and centered) to refer to its approximate location in the text.

9. Data: Hardcopy of the final data used in the paper. Include the observation identifiers (e.g., country names; time period). If you use more than 500 observations, turn-in a digital copy of your final data.

Prepare a 10-minute Microsoft PowerPoint presentation of your research. Be sure to include the following in your oral presentation.

- A description of the research question(s) that you investigate and why this (these) is (are) interesting or of importance.
- Specification of your econometric model:
 - What is the dependent variable? What are the independent variables?
 - What are your *a priori* expectations as to how the dependent variable is correlated with each of the independent variables? Be sure to acknowledge “which” (or “whose”) theories led you to form these expectations. (**Note:** Do these for the most important variables in your model as time is limited!)
- What are your main findings? What do they mean? Are they consistent with your *a priori* expectations and with prior research? Why? Or, why not? You do not need to present the details of the statistical tests rather you should focus on the economic meaning of your findings. That is, what do your findings tell you about the economic issue(s) you studied? What did you learn that you did not know before you conducted this research? (**Note:** This section is the most important component of the oral presentation. So devote enough time to this.)
- What are the policy implications of your findings?

Additional Reading Materials (Tentative; Ordered by Use):

Saiz, Albert and Elena Zoido. 2005. “Listening to What the World Says: Bilingualism and Earnings in the United States.” *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 87(3): 523-538.

Rivera-Batiz, Francisco L. 1999. “Undocumented Workers in the Labor Market: An Analysis of the Earnings of Legal and Illegal Mexican Immigrants in the United States.” *Journal of Population Economics*, 12(1): 91-116.

Chiswick, Barry R. 1978. “The Effect of Americanization on the Earnings of Foreign-born Men.” *Journal of Political Economy*, 86(5): 897-921.

Lazear, Edward P. 2000. “Performance Pay and Productivity.” *American Economic Review*, 90(5): 1346-1361.

Krueger, Alan B. 1993. “How Computers Have Changed the Wage Structure: Evidence from Microdata, 1984-1987.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 108(1): 30-60.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

Week 1. (August 24) What is research? How to choose a research topic. From research topic to research question to research hypothesis. Regression Analysis: an introduction. Examples. Sources of data: primary and secondary data sources. Library services, interlibrary loan, economics journals, electronic databases, and so on. EconLit: an introduction. Keywords. Google. Google Scholar.

Assignment: 1. Read Chapters 1 and 2 of Greenlaw. 2. Read Saiz and Soido (2005), pp. 523-529. We will discuss this article in class. Identify the question(s) addressed by the paper. Pay close attention to the following issues: What has been done before? How does the paper “fit” in the literature? 3. See Assignment #1 and Assignment #2 instruction sheets, both due next week.

Week 2. (August 31) Discuss Saiz and Soido (2005), pp. 523-529. Economic Theory. Prior Research. Breakout.

Assignment: 1. See Assignment #3 instruction sheet, due next week. Be prepared to discuss your project with me. 2. Start collecting relevant materials. 3. Read Rivera-Batiz (1999), pp. 91-99. We will discuss this article in class. Identify the question(s) addressed by the paper. Pay close attention to the following issues: What has been done before? How does the paper “fit” in the literature?

Week 3. (September 7) Economic Theory. Prior Research. Synthesis: Key to a good literature review. Discuss Rivera-Batiz (1999), pp. 91-99. Breakout.

Assignment: 1. Collect and read papers related to your study. As you read them, be sure to also note the data used in these papers and their sources. You might find them useful later. 2. Start writing your project proposal (Part A) due September 21 (week 5). See pages 3-4 of the syllabus and relevant handouts for details on content, in-text referencing style, etc. 3. Read Chapters 2A and 3 of Greenlaw. 4. Bring a flash drive next week.

Week 4. (September 14) Introduction to EViews: data entry, etc.; How to summarize data; Introduction to EViews: descriptive statistics, correlation, data plots, histograms; Technique Review: Descriptive statistics & correlation; Scatter diagram; Downloading data. Computer-Lab Exercise.

Assignment: 1. Written proposals are due next week. Prepare a six-minute oral presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint. Hard copy of presentation is also due next week. 2. Practice EViews.

Week 5. (September 21) Written proposals and hard copy of presentation are due today. Oral presentation of proposals.

Note: The econometric model you present at this time is tentative. As you collect and read more materials, you may feel the need to revise your model. You are free to do so.

Assignment: Read Chapters 4 and 5 of Greenlaw. 2. Practice EViews.

Week 6. (September 28) Oral presentations, continued. Descriptive Statistics, Computer-Lab Exercise. Breakout.

Assignment: 1. If asked, please rewrite your proposal and turn in a “revised” version next week (be sure to incorporate my comments). Your proposal will not be re-graded; but, you **cannot** proceed to the next stage of the project unless you do this. 2. Read Chapter 6 of Greenlaw. 3. Start writing your literature review (Part B)—due October 19 (week 9). See pages 4-5 of the syllabus and relevant handouts for details on content, in-text referencing style, etc.

Week 7. (October 5) Regression analysis: Basics; Interpretation of the coefficient estimates; R-square; F-test; t-test. Examples. Computer-Lab Exercise.

Assignment: 1. Re-read Discuss Saiz and Soido (2005), pp. 523-529. 2. Start collecting your data—due November 2 (week 11). 3. Read Chapters 8, 9, and 11 of Greenlaw.

Week 8. (October 12) First Examination.

Assignment: Literature review due next week.

Week 9. (October 19) Literature review due today. Regression analysis, continued. Computer-Lab Exercise.

Assignment 1. Be prepared to report on the progress of your data collection. Prepare a list of your data, their detailed description and sources (see pages 5-6 of the syllabus for details on the requirements for the data & descriptive report, Part C).

Week 10. (October 26) Breakout.

Assignment: 1. Data and descriptive report are due next week. 2. Re-read Saiz and Zoido (2005), pp. 523-532.

Last day to withdraw—November 4 (Friday)

Week 11. (November 2) Data and descriptive report due today. Discuss Saiz and Zoido (2005). Completing the paper.

Week 12. (November 9) Using SAS: Regression Analysis. Computer-Lab Exercise.

Assignment: 1. Read Chiswick (1978), pp. 897-910 and Lazear (2000), pp. 1346-1352. Read Chapter 12 of Greenlaw. 3. Practice SAS.

Week 13. (November 16) Discuss Chiswick (1978) and Lazear (2000). Computer-Lab Exercise.

No class, Thanksgiving Break—November 23

Week 14. (November 30) Second Exam. All written empirical papers (Part D) are due next week, no exceptions. See pages 4-8 of the syllabus and relevant handouts for details on content, in-text referencing style, etc.

Assignment: Send me an e-mail, prior to 6 pm December 7, with the following contents: (Do not place on a Word document.)

TITLE OF YOUR PAPER (all capital letters)

Your name

Abstract of your paper (150 words or less)

Week 15. (December 7) All empirical projects and Microsoft PowerPoint presentation slides are due today. Although oral presentations are scheduled for two weeks, everyone must be ready to present today. Presentation order will be randomly determined. **Note:** As a courtesy to your fellow classmates, you must be in class both days even if you are not presenting, no exceptions.

Finals Week. (December 14) Presentations, continued.

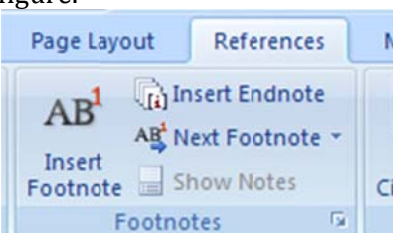
“Tips/Checklist”

1. The complete research paper must include a title page, see page 6 of the syllabus for details.
2. Use New Times Roman Font 12 and one inch margins throughout.
3. Insert page numbers at the bottom of each page, centered. Do not place a number on the cover sheet.
4. Indent all paragraphs (use the Tab key, not the space bar key).
5. You should include section headings when writing the complete research paper (e.g., **1. Introduction and Review of Literature**). Prior to section 2 of the paper, you should mention how the rest of the paper is structured.
6. In general, footnote numbers should be placed after sentences. For example (as quoted from Broda and Weinstein 2010):

The fact that the quality available for consumers rises as a result of the creative destruction process is a central feature of Schumpeter’s work.²

** Note: Footnote number 2 is placed after the period.

7. Number footnotes in order, corresponding to numbers in the text, and place them at the bottom of the page (rather than as endnotes). In Microsoft Word, go to **References**, then **Insert Footnote**, see figure.



8. Do not include the title of the paper, journal name, etc. when referring to a study in the text or footnote. It is sufficient to refer to the paper as follows: Paul Krugman (1991), in the first instance; then Krugman (1991) in subsequent reference. See **Handout: In-text Referencing Guide** for more information on appropriate in-text referencing style.
9. It is acceptable to quote directly from the papers that you read. However, you must indicate that you are doing so (See **Handout: In-Text Referencing Guide**). Otherwise, you are cheating! It is **not** acceptable to copy passages without giving due credit. Also, do not quote too much. It is better to write using your own words. Also see page 3 of the syllabus for a more extensive discussion of appropriate acknowledgement of sources used.
10. The reference list should be alphabetized according to the first author’s last name. And, follow the order of the authors’ names as they appear in the papers, see **Handout: Reference List Style Guide**.
11. You should present (and discuss) the descriptive statistics and correlations of the variables before the regression results. It is not logical to discuss the results and then refer to the mean, standard deviation, etc. of the variables.
12. Each table and figure should have a title indicating the contents.
13. You should refer to the Tables (and figures) sequentially. For example, do not discuss Table 4 first and then Table 2. You should refer to all Tables and Figures in the text. Do not include a Table (or figure) without referring to it in the text.
14. Do not just cut-and-paste outputs from EViews or SAS. You should create your own Tables (see **Handout: Sample Tables**).
15. Data are (not data is).
16. Be sure that your sentences and paragraphs cohere (i.e., they are logically consistent and connected). For example, you may include transition sentences to link a paragraph to the previous one.
17. Do not misspell authors’ names. Misspellings send a signal of sloppy work.

18. Choose a point of view when writing. If you use “I”, stick with it and use “my”; if you choose to say “we”, then use “our”. Also, choose a tense (e.g., past tense) when writing and stick with it. If you use “The authors find...” in one place; then use present tense consistently.
19. Avoid using contractions in formal writing. Write “it is common knowledge” rather than “it’s common knowledge.” (It’s is a contraction of It is.)
20. When referring to numbers in the text, use “zero to ten” and switch to Arabic numbers for numbers higher than ten (e.g., 11; 100, etc.). For example, you don’t write one hundred, rather you write 100. You don’t write 5, rather you write five.
21. If you are going to use a “long” phrase repetitively, it is better to use an acronym or initialism. For example, in the first instance, write as follows: “... foreign direct investment (FDI)....” In the next instance, write as follows: “FDI’s effect on industry competitiveness...”
22. You are not proving a hypothesis; rather you are testing a hypothesis.
23. Do not describe what you are doing to the reader chronologically. For example, do not say “I collected and then read Co (2002) and List and Co (2000) for my literature review.” This writing style is awkward in a formal piece.
24. Instead of saying “I learned a lot from reading Smith (2001),” write exactly what you learned!
25. When reviewing papers, do not merely say a positive or negative relationship exist between Y and X. I need to know that you know what the practical implications of the relationships are. For example, a negative relationship between GDP growth and unemployment rate means that when unemployment is high, GDP growth is low.
26. While the paper may be mainly interested in the relationship between Y and X₁, in your literature review, do not forget to review the relationship between Y (dependent variable) and all other X’s (independent variables). Same comment in the interpretation of results.
27. Do not just say “The results confirm past research...” State how your results confirm past studies.
28. If a variable is not statistically significant with a negative sign, you cannot say when the variable X is high, the variable Y is low (negative correlation). This is because you have just concluded that the variable X is not statistically significant (i.e., you have not found evidence that the variables are correlated. **Note:** this is not the same as saying that you have found evidence that they are not correlated).