

**TERM PAPER DESCRIPTION**  
**ECNS 562: Econometrics II**  
**Instructor: Eric Belasco**  
**Spring 2012**

Initial Description:	<u>Tues, March 27th</u>
Final Presentations:	<u>Tues, April 24th</u>
Final Paper Due:	<u>Thurs, April 26th</u>

Within the field of economic research, journal publications will be your currency as a professional. This project will focus on preparing a paper that can be later refined into a publication-worthy document. This includes collecting data, conducting economic analysis and proving comprehensive analysis on your topic.

In this course, 20 percent of your grade will be based on successful completion of your final term paper. This assignment will give you the opportunity to apply class materials towards a research topic of interest. Additionally, the paper must include an extension of one of the concepts in class. The paper will be done individually and should be about 15-20 pages long, typed and double-spaced. To ensure progress, an **initial description** of your research will be presented to the class at the date above. This description should last about 3-5 minutes and include an introduction, specific information about the source and contents of the data used, and hypothesized results. If there are problems identifying an appropriate data set, please discuss with your advisor or myself. In my experience, the two major hurdles for most research projects include an identification of the topic and an appropriate data set. You should have both of these hurdles completed by the time your abstract is turned in. A **final presentation** will also be held on the date above where you will more formally demonstrate to the class the methods and main findings from your research. Each presenter will be given 10 minutes.

This project need not be expensive nor require a huge time investment in data collection. However, it does need to show careful

planning, good economic theory, and make use of the methods discussed in this course. Some part of your instructor's reaction to your project will inevitably reflect the originality of your topic, so choose it with care. While it is acceptable to work on a topic of interest, you may also decide to replicate results from a past body of work (see me for data sites).

Projects are to be turned in by the date stated above. If you hand it in before the date, the instructor will give feedback and allow you to make improvements before the final deadline. Your final draft should include a description of the data, an econometrics section detailing your methods, a statement describing the implications or importance of your study, and a discussion of further questions raised by your study.

Finally, term papers will be graded based on the following break down:

Introduction	10%
Description of Data	10%
Description of Econometric Methods	30%
Econometric Extension	10%
Professional Appearance	10%
General Readability	10%
Originality	10%
<u>Implications and Further Research</u>	<u>10%</u>
TOTAL	100%