

Exercise 4 (Pass+/Pass/Fail)
DUE: Thursday, April 3, 2:10pm

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Econ 308x, Spring 2003

**** PLEASE NOTE: NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

Interim Reports for Course Projects

Please prepare an interim report on your course project in written form, to be turned in at the beginning of class on Thursday, April 3. If you are working in a team, only one report needs to be turned in.

This interim report should be a minimum of three pages in length (standard font size, double spaced) and should include the following four aspects:

1. A careful description of the *specific* questions or hypotheses you intend to explore in your course project;
2. a careful description of your plan of attack for exploration of these questions or hypotheses, including a *realistic* time table describing how you plan to complete your project by the last day of classes;
3. a description of the progress you have made to date in exploring these questions/hypotheses;
4. complete citations for key references, including a complete list of authors/co-authors, the specific outlet (journal name, book title, webpage title and URL, etc.), the publishing company (if published) or the institutional affiliation of the authors (if a working paper, a web page, or some other institutionally supported outlet), volume/issue numbers and/or page numbers (if published), and year of publication or release.

IMPORTANT CAUTION: To avoid any misunderstanding at an early stage, I would like to issue the following general caution to all of you. Please be sure to follow standard scholarly procedures in preparing these interim course project reports as well as your final course project reports. In particular, it is to be expected that you will find it useful to make some use of the ideas, methods, software, etc. that previous researchers have already developed (in addition to making an original contribution yourself, whether in the form of a critical synthesis of ideas, original modeling, original coding, etc.) The use of other people's ideas is perfectly acceptable as long as full and proper credit is given to them. This means, in particular, that any quoted or paraphrased ideas taken from a source should be explicitly attributed to that source, and a full citation for that source should be included in your list of references. Also, any exact quotes should be included within quotation marks. Usage of other people's ideas or work without proper credit is "plagiarism," a serious form of cheating for which serious university sanctions apply.