

Purpose: The purpose of these projects is to give you a hands-on experience with thinking about economics issues in a way that economists would. I am mainly interested in seeing if you can approach a real-world macroeconomics issue, set it up as an economics problem (that is separate out the economics aspect of the problem from the non-economics aspects), and have something intelligent and critical to say about it. Most of the work involves library-based research, reading and thinking. First off, get the facts about a topic right. Then focus on 1-2 crucial elements of the debate. For the most part, you will not have to read any scholarly journals; reading 2-3 well-chosen articles from the popular press (say articles from the *Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, *Atlantic Monthly*...and such other high standard publications) is all that is required. **Do not use the internet for anything other than to get some facts.** Show evidence of critical thinking. Argue a point like a good lawyer would. **Don't give me a survey.**

- Logistics: The entire class will get split up into groups of size three. Each group will be expected to make a 10 minute in-class presentation on the topic on a scheduled date (starting end April). Following your presentation, members of the audience, including the instructor may ask you some questions (another 2 mins).
- Paper: You are required to turn in a **8-10 page** (double-spaced, size 12 font) paper at the end. The paper is essentially a report on the research you have done; in most cases, it will just be a brief essay based on your presentation; in some cases, you may want to put in some of the stuff you could not go over in your actual presentation but you find valuable or interesting anyway. **The paper should not exceed 10 pages in length.** It should include a detailed bibliography (references) in the end. The paper is due on the last day of the presentations.
- Presentation: You are required to use **Powerpoint** for your presentation. There is no dress code!
- Grading: **Projects are worth 25% of your overall grade.** So take them seriously. Members of a group will all get the same project grade. So, it makes no sense for you to condone shirking or sloppiness on the part of your group mates.
- Attendance: **Attendance on each day of the project presentations is compulsory.** Failing which, I will subtract 50% from your project grade.
- Overall remarks: I will provide helpful guidelines on every topic if asked. Feel free to stop by and discuss your progress (maybe receive some early pointers on how things ought to be going). Start work early.