Homework # 5 (mini)

(15 points) In this homework, you are asked to come up with a proposal for your term paper, which consists of two components: outline and bibliography. This proposal will form the backbone of your paper. Let me emphasize that this will be a very preliminary draft of your proposal. As you do progress in your research, you are expected to revise and restructure the proposal.

The first draft of the proposal is due Monday, October 11. Below are some suggested guidelines.

Suggested Guidelines for the Proposal

The target audience for the paper is the students registered for this class (and not the professor). Thus, the paper should be understandable and stimulating for a student who has taken ECO 12, 41, 42, and 43 and many weeks of seminar in global economic issues. Your main objective is to first generate some interest about your research and then fully satisfy the reader’s intellectual curiosity.

Title Page

⇒ Name, title of paper
⇒ It is highly recommended that the title is in the form of a question e.g.: “What explains the rise in European unemployment?” , “Can stronger IPR protection promote growth in the developing world?”; “Is growth good for the poor?”.

Outline

1. Introduction

This section presents the research question and motivation of the paper in detail. The objective is to signal the reader that this paper is worth reading. You also provide a brief overview of the paper by talking about the methodology, expected results, and expected contribution to the literature. In particular, you need to mention
→ Why your research question is interesting and important,
→ What techniques/methods you plan to utilize to investigate the question
→ What we can potentially learn from the results

2. Literature Review

The objective is to make the reader familiar with the historical/institutional/empirical/theoretical background related with the research question
→ Identify the issues, concepts and models related with the research question. Create headings accordingly. Using sources from the literature (mainly articles, book chapters and etc.) present a coherent discussion under each heading. Make sure to elaborate on the linkages between each section. Do not summarize papers in an isolated fashion.
→ This section will serve as the foundation for your study. So it should justify the motivation of the paper and present the models and techniques upon which one can introduce a new twist.
→ Your objective is to give the reader a comprehensive overview of the existing work and lay out the issues in an integrated fashion. The reader must be able to understand the relevance and contribution of each article. In addition, the reader should be able to see the differentiating as well as complementing features of each article. Essentially, you are giving a guided tour of the literature to the reader.
3. Methodology

→ What economic theory and/or regression analysis can be proposed to investigate this issue (with clear references to the existing literature)?
→ If empirical analysis, write down the equation to be estimated. Justify the choice of variables using economic theory.
→ If historical/comparative/theoretical analysis, discuss the relevant issues in this context.

4. Empirical Analysis (if you use regression techniques), Analysis (otherwise)

→ Talk about the (expected) results of your analysis. Propose ways in which one can check the robustness of the results.

5. Conclusion

→ Review your analysis; emphasize its possible contribution and policy implications.
→ Mention the shortcomings of your work and make suggestions for future research.

Bibliography

⇒ Use any format from a respected journal such as American Economic Review, Journal of Economic Perspectives, Quarterly Journal of Economics (all available at JSTOR)

Suggested Format on the Proposal

⇒ 11-point font size, margins: 1.25 inches (left and right), 1 inch (top and bottom)
⇒ Outline must be properly formatted such that the reader can easily see the highlights and the main content.
⇒ Use bullets and refrain from using well-constructed sentences and long paragraphs (if possible)
⇒ Some suggestions: (feel free to develop your own style as well)
  → Main headings bold, subheadings indented
  → Headings and subheadings appropriately numbered.
⇒ In the bibliography use hanging indentation

Suggested Format on the paper:

The length of the paper including references, appendix, endnotes etc. must be between 15-20 pages. The paper must be double spaced with font-size 11.

Deadlines

-- polished outline and preliminary power point presentation
due 7 days (one week) before the presentation by 4:00 pm
-- first draft
due one day (24 hours) before the presentation by 1:00 pm
-- final draft
due on the first day of the finals by 4:00 pm

Note that both the first and final drafts will be considered when giving your term paper grade. If you are presenting on Monday, 24 hours before Monday implies Sunday.
Presentations

Each individual presentation including discussions should exactly take 50 minutes. Given this objective, target a presentation time of 30 minutes. With questions, discussions etc. it will presumably round up to 50 minutes. During the presentation each student is expected to participate by asking questions and providing comments. For team presentations simply double the minutes given above.

Students are required to do a power point presentation. The number of slides for the presentation should be between 10 and 15. This is not a strict requirement though. The slides should not be crowded. They should include information in a figurative and easily comprehensible form. Preferably, they should be free of fully constructed sentences and long paragraphs. Suggested font type and size is Arial 22 or more. The Times New Roman font can fade away in most instances. To warm up for the presentation, you are highly recommended to make a mock presentation to your friends.

Grading

The grade for the term paper will be based on the originality of your topic, the informativeness of the paper, the contribution of your paper in terms of new insights and ideas, the way you apply your knowledge in economics and the way you relate it with the course material. Your grade will also be based on writing mechanics, that is, style, spelling, punctuation, grammar etc. The organization and flow of the paper will also be taken into consideration.

Some Suggestions on Where to Find Resources

0. Schaffer Library Hard Copy Collections: Not very fashionable these days but actually may contain more useful sources compared to internet sources. Lots of books, journals, magazines, government documents are at your fingertips.

1. Journal of Economic Perspectives: The journal is a good source of survey type articles that review the recent literature on hot topics such as European unemployment, wage inequality and international trade, the effects of globalization on financial markets, the natural rate of unemployment etc. The objective of the journal is to fill in the gap between academic publication and general interest press. It consists of papers with simple analytical models and statistical analysis. Contributors are top researchers in their field (available at JSTOR, see below)

2. Econ Lit: a large database that indexes economics journals. To get access, follow the steps below.
   1. Go to Schaffer Library Web Page
   2. Click on Databases and Indexes
   3. Click on Economics
   4. Click on Econ Lit (under specialized databases)

3. Other sources listed under Economics : a number of databases and indexes that are specific to Economics are listed under “the Economics” title
   1. Go to Schaffer Library Web Page
   2. Click on Databases and Indexes
   3. Click on Economics
   4. Feel free to explore each item listed

4. Proquest: excellent source of journal and newspaper (wsj and nytimes) articles. Most in full-text, some in abstract form.
   1. Go to Schaffer Library Web Page
   2. Click on Databases and Indexes
   3. Click on Proquest (under any topic)

5. Ebsco Host: very good source of articles etc.
1. Go to Schaffer Library Web Page
2. Click on Databases and Indexes
3. Click on EBSCOhost (under any topic)

6. **Jstor:** includes full text of major economic journals up this year minus 3 year, (i.e. a moving wall of 3 years)
   1. Go to Schaffer Library Web Page
   2. Click on Electronic Resources
   3. Click on JSTOR (under any topic)

7. **Other sources:** Ingenta, Lexis-Nexis and other databases can also be useful.
   1. Go to Schaffer Library Web Page
   2. Click on Electronic Resources
   3. Click on database of your choice (under any topic)

8. **Senior Thesis Web Site:** lists a wide variety of links especially on data gathering

9. **Economic Journal Articles:** **At least** 1/3 of your references should consist of academic journal articles. Some examples are Journal of Economic Perspectives, Journal of International Economics, American Economic Review, European Economic Review, and Journal of Monetary Economics etc.

10. **Other libraries:** In general, the search engines (Econ-lit, Proquest) list articles from periodicals. To investigate whether there are books, government documents, special reports published on your topic, you may want to search the libraries at other institutions. This search can be done through the web. Most institutions give access for search purposes. The ones I use most frequently are

    University of Florida: [http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/](http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/)
    Columbia University: [http://webclio.cul.columbia.edu/webpac-bin/wgbroker/?new+-access+clio](http://webclio.cul.columbia.edu/webpac-bin/wgbroker/?new+-access+clio)