ECON-671
International Economics: Trade

The main assignment for the course is to write an empirical paper that tests a hypothesis of your choosing within the broad field of international trade. If you are approaching the dissertation stage, you might use this as the basis for your dissertation proposal and for a dissertation fellowship application. If you are not yet to the dissertation or are not a Ph.D. student, rest assured that this exercise is still good practice for your future.

Although clearly every paper is different, most papers should be organized using the following sections:

I.   *Introduction*: The introduction should introduce your research question. You need to justify why this is an important/interesting question to study, and explain how you are adding to the literature.
II.   *Literature Review*: This section should summarize the most relevant (and recent) papers on this topic, and explain how your paper adds to or fits into the literature.
III.   *Model*: This section should fully describe your hypothesis and the theory behind this hypothesis. You should then introduce the empirical model you plan to use to test the hypothesis.
IV.   *Data and Estimation:* This section should discuss the source of your data and the distribution of your key variables of interest. For example, you should include a table of summary statistics, and explain any clear outliers. Any estimation issues can also be explained in this section.
V.   *Results:* This section should present a full analysis of your empirical results—make sure to discuss both the statistical and economic significance of your estimates.
VI.   *Conclusion*

Papers should not exceed 40 pages.

Throughout the course of the semester, you are expected to participate in discussion boards and submit preliminary assignments associated with your paper. For each discussion board assignments, students must respond to at least two of their classmates. Please see blackboard for more information on each assignment.

Assignment	*Due Date*
Discussion Board Assignment: Topic	*September 11*
Classmate Feedback	*September 16*
Annotated Bibliography Assignment	*September 25*
Discussion Board Assignment: Testable Hypothesis	*October 9*
Classmate Feedback	*October 14*
Discussion Board: Dataset	*October 23*
Classmate Feedback	*October 28*
Discussion Board: Econometric Model	*November 6*
Classmate Feedback	*November 11*
Final Paper	*December 9*

Your final paper will be graded according to the following rubric.

		Below Expectations (1)	Meets Expectations (2)	Exceeds Expectations (3)
General: Clarity and Organization				
1	Objective of the paper is well defined.	Objective was not clearly stated.	Clearly stated the objective of the paper.	Objective was exceptionally well articulated.
2	Creates a well - organized paper.	The research paper was not well organized.	The research paper was well organized.	The research paper was very well organized.
3	The research paper employs proper spelling and grammar.	Spelling and grammatical errors occurred multiple times throughout the paper.	Spelling and grammar was appropriate for a research paper.	The paper had very few spelling and grammatical errors.
Introduction/Literature Review/Theoretical Model				
4	Undertakes research on a significant problem that is worthy of study.	The student does not clearly articulate why the paper addresses a topic that is worthy of study.	The student adequately articulates why the paper addresses a topic that is worthy of study.	The student does an exceptional job in explaining why the paper addresses a topic that is worthy of study.
5	References to relevant theory and empirical literature	Student neglected key references to relevant theory or empirical research.	Literature review is comprehensive and up to date.	Literature review is exceptionally wide-ranging and rigorous.
6	Restatement of theories underlying research in a way that indicates a thorough understanding	Discussion of theory lacks clarity, omits important theories, or does not demonstrate comprehension.	Clear discussion of major theories underlying research.	Displays a thorough command of the economic theory underlying their research.
7	Clearly states the hypothesis.	Hypothesis (or hypotheses) was not clearly stated.	Clearly stated the main hypothesis (or hypotheses).	Hypothesis (or hypotheses) was exceptionally well articulated.

	Data/Research Methodology			
8	The student did the best possible analysis given the available data.	Student failed to find data suitable for testing their hypothesis.	Data were appropriate for testing the hypotheses.	Student found the best possible data to test their hypotheses.
9	The process by which the data was generated or gathered is clearly described.	The student did not clearly describe the source of the data.	The student did an adequate job of describing the source of the data.	The student did an exceptionally good job at describing the source of the data.
10	Describes the distribution of the data, including the potential problems associated with missing variables, selection, and outliers.	Student did not adequately describe the distribution of the dependent and explanatory variables.	Student adequately described the distribution of the dependent and explanatory variables.	Student did an exceptional job of describing the distribution of the dependent and explanatory variables.
11	Use appropriate econometric methods to test the hypothesis.	Student did not use the appropriate econometric method to test the hypothesis.	The student used adequate econometric methods to test the hypothesis.	The student used econometric methods that were rigorous and comprehensive.
12	Clearly explains the econometric methods.	The student did not explain the methods used in the project.	The student explained the methods used in the project.	Methods were explained very well.
13	Accurately employs the appropriate econometric methods.	The student had significant problems in implementing their econometric methodology.	The student correctly implemented their econometric methodology.	The student did an exceptional job in implementing their econometric methodology.
14	Recognize the limitations of	Unable to recognize the limitations of methods	Recognized most of the limitations of methods	Very accurately recognized all of the

	methods and data.	and data.	and data.	limitations of the methods and data.

Results/Conclusion				
15	Results of research should be clearly presented.	The results of the research were not clearly presented.	The results of the research were clearly presented.	The results of the research were very clearly presented.
16	Presents a well-supported conclusion as a result of the analysis.	Conclusion was not well supported by the analysis.	Conclusion was well supported by the analysis.	Conclusion was extremely well-supported by the analysis.

Participation				
17	Participation in preliminary stages of research	Student missed deadlines, did not provide constructive feedback, or failed to submit preliminary assignments.	Student submitted assignments and participated in discussion boards, but submissions were not thoughtful.	Student actively participated in all discussion boards and preliminary assignments in a timely manner