

EC470 - Applying Economic Theory

Students are required to submit a paper on a topic in imperfect information. Topics should be chosen very narrowly - define a particular problem that arises in a specific situation. When looking for topics, the popular media is a good place to start. The paper must review the relevant theoretical literature and provide an answer to your particular problem. The key to a strong paper is defining a narrow thesis statement, and then providing a strong supporting argument. This is particularly true when writing a literature review.

All submissions should occur through the Drop Box system in My Learning Space. If you have any difficulties, please contact me as soon as possible.

1 Proposal - January 21st, 8am

This should be 200-250 words in length, ask a specific question related to imperfect information, and an explanation of why **you** think the question is interesting. This is not graded, but must be approved prior to the submission of the first draft. Proposals that are unacceptable, for any reason, will be returned with comments as soon as possible. These must then be resubmitted by January 28th at 8am. Late proposals (for either deadline) will result in a 10% deduction per day from the overall paper grade. The proposal must have 3 key components.

1. What is the strategic situation? Why is it interesting to **you**?
2. What is the information asymmetry? (Who has information that isn't public?)
3. Provide one article that will be part of your analysis. If it isn't completely obvious, why is the article relevant to your question?

Due to the large quantity of submissions received each year, it is necessary that students follow some convention for filenames. As such the filename must include your name, EC470 Proposal, and the date (including year). Example - "Ken Jackson - EC470 Proposal - 2011 Jan 20.doc"

2 First Draft - February 14th, 8am

Your paper will not likely be complete, though I expect a minimum of 3-4 pages (750 words). It is OK for some sections to be incomplete and/or in note form. Minor topic changes from the proposal are expected, though any significant change must be approved by the instructor. Please ask if you are unsure. Again, filenames should include your name, EC307 Draft 1, and the date. Example - "Ken Jackson - EC470 Draft 1 - 2011 Feb 14 - .doc"

3 Peer-Editing 1 - February 18th, 4pm

After each draft is submitted, there will be a round of peer-editing. Each person that submits a paper will receive two papers back for you to comment on. Editing comments should offer *constructive* suggestions related to:

1. Content - alternative explanations, related papers, etc.
2. Writing Quality - organizational suggestions, clarity of arguments, grammar, spelling, etc.

Editing comments must be completed via Track Changes in Word, or the equivalent, and submitted via the DropBox system with the editors name added to the end of the filename. Example - "Ken Jackson - EC470 Draft 1 - 2011 Feb 14 - edited by John Doe.doc"

4 Second Draft - March 14th, 8am

Your paper should have taken its final structure and should be at least 6 pages (1500 words) at this point, but there may still be sections that are in note form or incomplete. Any topic change at this stage must be approved by the instructor via e-mail. Again, filenames should include your name, EC470 Draft 2, and the date. Example - "Ken Jackson - EC470 Draft 2 - 2011 Mar 13.doc"

5 Peer-Editing 2 - March 18th, 4pm

Each person that submits a second draft will again receive two papers for editing. These will be from different authors than round 1. Editing comments must again focus on both content and writing quality. As before, editing comments must be completed via Track Changes in Word, or the equivalent, and submitted via the DropBox system with the editors name added to the end of the filename. Example - "Ken Jackson - EC470 Draft 2 - 2011 Mar 13 - edited by John Doe.doc"

6 Final Paper - April 6th, 8am

The final paper should be 2,500-3,000 words, or roughly 10-12 pages long. Remember, longer is not better; make your point concisely. No topic changes will be approved after the second draft, as this would defeat the purpose of the peer-editing exercise. Filenames for final papers should include your name, EC470, the date, and the title of the paper. Example: "Ken Jackson - EC470 - 2011 Apr 4 - Insurance and Genetic Testing: The Case of Alzheimer's Disease?"