

## ECON435/835 Term Paper

For this course, you are required to submit a term paper (approximately 25-30 pages, double-spaced). The deadline for the final draft is 4pm on **Monday April 11, 2011**. The objective of the term paper is to discuss and critique recent research articles in development economics and/or growth. By recent, I mean that it should have been published or issued in the last decade (2001-2010). The article can be on any topic within the field of development economics or growth (macro or micro, theoretical or applied, etc.), but you must have it approved by me. A likely source for the article would be a top journal such as the *American Economic Review*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Economic Growth*, *International Economic Review*. You are free to consider some of the working papers and articles listed in the course outline. Note that the article must involve a significant amount of formal analysis, whether theoretical or empirical.

**Proposal:** You are required to submit a formal written proposal of what you intend to do write your paper about. This should involve a short (1 page) summary of what you plan to write about, highlighting some of the key issues, plus a bibliography of some of the articles you are likely to draw upon. The proposal is due by 4pm on **Friday, March 18, 2011**. By this date you should also provide me with a copy (hard or electronic) of the main article you will be discussing.

**Presentation:** You are required to make a short (half hour) presentation of your discussion and critique. These presentations will be made in class during the last week of term. Note that you will be making the presentation before the paper is due, so this should allow you to incorporate any comments and suggestions that arise then.

**Paper Requirements:** Your paper should consist of the following 4 sections (each of which could be broken down into subsections if you wish):

- 1. Background:** This section should provide a summary of the literature to which the main paper you are discussing contributes. In particular, you should explain what motivated the authors to write this paper and what is the (potential) value added by it. Most articles will briefly discuss the literature and motivation of part of their introduction. However, this will often be fairly selective and you should try to go beyond this.
- 2. Summary:** This section should provide a concise description of the approach taken by the paper and its main results (theoretical or empirical). Try to explain things in your own words and be careful to explain the intuition.
- 3. Critique:** This section should point out any problems with this paper. Are the assumptions made reasonable (this could mean theoretical assumptions of identifying assumptions)? How might the results change if alternative assumptions were made? How could the exposition be improved? Are there any other (more recent) papers that have questioned this one? etc.
- 4. Extension:** In this section you should discuss how you might go about building on the ideas in the paper. This is likely to be a bit more speculative than the other sections of your paper, but you might try to actually start developing an extended/alternative version of the model, or considering what other empirical implications you could test (is the data available). Point out any difficulties or issues that must be resolved in doing this. Some ideas on this may arise from the discussion during the conference presentation.