Preliminary Reports and Presentations for Proposed Course Projects

Recall that extensive information about course projects is provided at the Project Information Site at

http://www.econ.iastate.edu/classes/econ308/tesfatsion/projinfo.htm

As detailed more carefully at this site, your project can involve either a literature critique, an experimental design conducted using existing software, or the construction and use of original software. The following Exercise 5 instructions apply for all three types of course projects.

Please prepare a brief written report on your course project, to be turned in at the beginning of class on Thursday, March 11. If you are working in a team, only one report needs to be turned in. Please also come prepared to give a short (5-7 minute) presentation of your report. Given the very short time for each presentation, the use of transparencies is strongly recommended.

Your written report should be from one to three pages in length (standard font size, double spaced) and should include the following three aspects:

1. A description of the specific questions or hypotheses you intend to explore in your course project;

2. A description of your plan of attack for exploration of these questions or hypotheses, including a realistic time table describing how your project could be completed by the end of classes.

3. Complete citations for several key references, including a complete list of authors/co-authors, the specific outlet (journal name, book title, webpage title and URL, etc.), the publishing company (if published) or the institutional affiliation of the authors (if a working paper, a web page, or some other institutionally supported outlet), volume/issue numbers and/or page numbers (if published), and year of publication or release.

IMPORTANT CAUTION: To avoid any misunderstanding at an early stage, I would like to issue the following general caution to all of you. Please be sure to follow standard scholarly procedures in preparing these preliminary course project proposal reports as well
as your final course project reports. In particular, it is to be expected that you will find it useful to make some use of the ideas, methods, software, etc. that previous researchers have already developed (in addition to making an original contribution yourself, whether in the form of a critical synthesis of ideas, original modeling, original coding, etc.) The use of other people’s ideas is perfectly acceptable as long as full and proper credit is given to them. This means, in particular, that any quoted or paraphrased ideas taken from a source should be explicitly attributed to that source, and a full citation for that source should be included in your list of references. Also, any exact quotes should be included within quotation marks. Usage of other people’s ideas or work without proper credit is “plagiarism,” a serious form of cheating for which serious university sanctions apply.