

Introduction

ECON 871

Rough Plan for this Half

Lecture notes, course material etc will be posted on my website.

- ▶ I will send out announcements through the Canvas page.

I'm planning to cover the following (not necessarily in this order):

- ▶ Ricardian Models of Trade
 - ▶ Dornbusch, Fisher, Samuelson (1977)
 - ▶ Eaton and Kortum (2002)

- ▶ Tariffs and Trade Policy
 - ▶ Global Value Chains (GVCs).
 - ▶ Industrial policy.
 - ▶ Empirical effects of tariffs/trade policy.
 - ▶ Trade and the environment.

Assignments

You have **two assignments** for this half of the semester.

1. Referee Report + Short Presentation

- ▶ Referee report on a *working paper* that interests you.
- ▶ My suggestion is to pick a JMP of someone who did well on the market. You can find a list of past trade and spatial JMPs [here](#).
- ▶ Short (10 min) presentation to the class on the paper.

2. Research Proposal Presentation

- ▶ 30 minute presentation on an **original research idea**.
- ▶ Preferably related to a trade or spatial topic (either half of the semester).
- ▶ Last class—we need to pick a date.

Important Dates

- ▶ There will be **no class** on November 22 (the day before Thanksgiving).
- ▶ The last week of class (the week of December 11), we will not meet at our usual time, but instead will have an extra long class on a day/time TBD.
 - ▶ Mini-conference for your research proposal presentations.
 - ▶ I will send out a survey to figure out a time that will work for everyone.
- ▶ Short paper presentations will **start the week of 11/13** (we will have one or two per class). I'll send out a google doc sign up sheet.

What is a Referee Report?

If you do continue doing economics research, you will become very familiar with referee reports, both writing and receiving them.

Main Idea: As an expert on a particular subject matter, it is up to you to evaluate work of your peers and make recommendations on whether or not a paper is ready for publication.

Typical Report contains two deliverables:

1. A report, written to the authors of the paper.
 2. A letter, written to the editor of the journal that is **not seen** by the authors of the paper.
- ** Your identity is anonymous to the authors, but not to the editor.

What is a Referee Report?

Format of the Report: The report should contain three main components.

1. **Brief Summary:** In one paragraph, summarize the main question and contribution of the paper.
2. **1-2 Main/Crucial Points:** These are points that, as a referee, you feel *must* be addressed before the paper can be published. Limit these to a couple really important things, not a laundry list of busy work.
 - ▶ For example, this could be concerns with the identification strategy or assumptions of the model
 - ▶ Provide some constructive suggestions of what you would like to see if you were to see a revised version of the paper.
3. **Minor Points:** You may have a few smaller points that you feel would improve the paper, but are not *necessary*.

What is a Referee Report?

The **letter to the editor** is confidential, meaning that the authors of the paper do not see it.

In the letter, you should:

- ▶ Briefly summarize the paper and the main contribution (a few sentences).
- ▶ Make a recommendation to the editor about whether the paper should be **accepted**, **returned for revision** (aka. “revise and resubmit”), or **rejected**.
- ▶ Briefly summarize your main concerns from your report. In other words, describe the reasoning for your recommendation.

Presentations

For both your short and long presentations, I'm going to push you on fine-tuning your **introductions**.

For this class, your presentation introductions should have the following form:

1. **Slide 1: Motivation + Question**

- ▶ Motivation comes from *the real world*, not the literature.
- ▶ Question should be clear/narrow enough.

2. **Slide 2: Contributions**

- ▶ 2-3 new things done in the paper.
- ▶ Can be (carefully) paired with an overview of findings.

3. **Slide 3: Literature**

- ▶ Mention key papers and highlight how your paper is new.

Let's look at an example.

Presentation Intros

For your **short presentation** (referee paper), I expect to see

- ▶ Three intro slides.
- ▶ ~ 2 to 3 additional slides summarizing the methodology/findings of the paper.
- ▶ If you want to add your critique from your referee report, you may, but this is not required.

For your **long presentation**, after the three intro slides, you can proceed however you want.

Other Logistics

- ▶ No set office hour time, but I'm happy to meet by appointment.
 - ▶ Email me to set up, and **include a few potential times during the week that work for you.**
 - ▶ lydia.cox@wisc.edu
- ▶ I encourage you to come talk to me about your research proposals before the end of the semester!
 - ▶ And anything else you have questions or concerns about.
- ▶ If you have suggestions for how I can make this class more useful for you, or particular topics you're really interested in learning about, I'm very open!