

Econ 122, spring 2007
Professor Joseph Farrell

Term paper guidelines

This will be updated and expanded during the semester; don't just read it once!

Final term paper is due at the beginning of our last scheduled class, May 3rd. I want this to represent your having learned something interesting that you didn't know when you started to work on the term paper. A specific and interesting-but-answerable question is a much better starting point (or perhaps is further along in the process) than an interesting and important topic. Normally term papers are something like 15-20 pages.

Two weeks before that, at the beginning of class on April 19th, an *informative rough draft* is due. It should be informative in the sense that it tells me enough about what you are going to do and how, so that (a) if I see problems with it, I will know now rather than find out only later, and (b) if I can help (point you to helpful sources, sharpen your thinking, steer you away from unpromising approaches, ...) we get a chance at that now.

You are more than welcome to submit this early, in which case you will get my feedback early, giving you more time for the next stage.

And two weeks before *that*, i.e. at the beginning of class on April 5th, at least one (two is good, three is fine, talk to me if you have some other number in mind) decent *outline* that serves the following functions: (a) assures me that you have at least one workable and interesting topic already identified; (b) assures me that you have really begun to work on it and are going to be able to make further progress; (c) gives me an opportunity to be helpful, either in a directly helpful way or by pointing out to you that so-and-so is an unpromising approach, or isn't industrial organization, or something.

Again, earlier is fine and can be advantageous.