

Updated Term Paper Guidelines ECNS 491

Paper: This paper will take the form of an extensive literature review and will cover an area of the students choosing. Any topic within the broad arena of the economics of crime and risky behaviors is fair game.

The goal of the paper will be to achieve the following:

- 1.) Clearly state the topic of interest and why the chosen area of research is important from a policy perspective.
- 2.) Choose, at minimum, **6** published articles in reputable economics journals to review and critique.
 - Each article's question of interest, empirical methods, and results should be clearly summarized.
 - Each article should be critiqued. What are the strengths and flaws of each? How could they be improved upon?
 - Articles should be chosen from the list of econ journal articles on our course webpage. The top 100 econ journals are fair game, as are the following other journals: *Journal of Legal Studies*, *American Law and Economics Review*, *International Review of Law and Economics*, and the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.
- 3.) Based on your review, what is the state of the literature? What do we know, in general, about the particular relationship of interest? What are the major questions that are still unanswered? Where do you think future research on this topic should focus?

Research Paper Template

I. Title page. Title of your paper, your name, and an abstract that is no more than 100 words in length.

II. Introduction. A clear, concise statement of the relationship of interest. Convince the reader why this is interesting and important. Here is where you address goal #1 above. **(1-3 pages)**

III. Literature review. Review the relevant research you have found (goal #2 above). I anticipate that you will need half a page to a full page to review each article. **(3-6 pages)**

IV. Summary and possible extensions of the literature. Here is where you address goal #3 above. **(2-4 pages)**

V. References. Any articles cited in your paper must be included in your list of references at the end of your manuscript. The style of references is up to you (MLA, APA, etc.), just stay consistent.

Formatting Instructions:

- Times New Roman Font
- Size 12 Font
- Double-spaced
- Single-sided

Due Date: April 26th (last day of class)