Term Project Guidelines

A significant portion of your grade comes from the term project, conducted as part of a team. Here are some points to keep in mind.

- A typical team consists of three or four students with different majors, say one Bio major, two Econ majors and one CMPS major. Get permission from the instructor if your proposed team is far from typical (we will assign teams by lot).
- Your team should meet and choose a topic by week 2. Topic ideas can be found on the class website, but feel free to try something different.
- Don’t wait until after the midterm to begin your project. Split up the work and get started right away, for example, by tracking down relevant published articles.
- Each group should meet regularly throughout the quarter to maintain momentum.
- Part of your evaluation is based on how helpful you are to the other members of your group; I will ask for confidential statements at the end of the quarter. So it is in your personal interest, as well as in the group interest, to help everyone in your group to do their part. For example, you should read what everyone else writes and help improve their prose. Redacted versions of these assessments may be included in Narrative evaluations.
- The syllabus contains due dates for the prospectus, first draft, full draft, and final writeup.
- Each group will also sign up to present in class during week 10.
- The typical in-class presentation will use the projector and run about 15 minutes, with each group member speaking about 5 minutes.
- The final write-up will typically be ~ 20 pages long, with each group member responsible for a section of 5 pages or more. But longer is not necessarily better—stay on point. Your target reader is a good student from a different major taking the class 2 years from now.
- Please use a standard academic format, as posted elsewhere on this website.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to properly document your sources and never to plagiarize. Current academic standards are spelled out in the Library guide:

http://library.ucsc.edu/science/instruction/CitingSources.pdf

and are also mentioned in NetTrail: http://nettrail.ucsc.edu/ (Section XI, Info Ethics).

Here are some topics chosen by 166A teams in past years.

- The pizza game, a three person pre-emption game
- The ultimatum game with excuses
- Pricing game boxes, a 3 firm oligopoly game (Sony, Microsoft and Nintendo)
- Games played by political candidates
- A customized auction game
- Discrimination as a labor market game
- Hawk-Dove games applied everywhere
- Continuous preemption games and Tobin taxes
- Replicator dynamics on the 2-simplex
- Algorithms for finding Nash equilibrium
- Microsoft, Yahoo and other takeover games
- Stable Matching Games
- Analysis of Kuhn Poker variations

Copies of the term papers can be checked out for 24 hours from the instructor.