**Research Paper Rubric**

**There are two research projects in the course**

1. **Research Paper: You will write a research article analyzing two major current economic issues in an emerging market and make policy recommendations.** The research paper will require you to gather information on emerging market issues and use the analytical skill set you have acquired in the course to evaluate those issues, and then present your analysis in a well-organized paper. The research paper is designed to promote the following skill set:
2. obtain, interpret, and synthesize data and information from different sources
3. analyze and interpret economic data using MS Excel
4. communicate findings using charts and graphs
5. demonstrate an effective writing process
6. conduct literature review
7. accurately and appropriately present research findings
8. apply economic reasoning to policy issues in a critical manner
9. apply an evidence-based approach to problems

As part of this project, you will learn to locate peer-reviewed scholarship on a topic, summarize articles, narrow a topic to a debatable question, paraphrase scholars’ viewpoints, use economic models and big data sets to conduct your empirical analysis, and support your own standpoint. Class time will be devoted to studying the form and function of research papers, moving from topics to questions, doing the literature review, conducting the economic analysis, reporting research results, organizing support for your own viewpoint, and writing the paper.

1. **Research Presentation: You will do a group presentation summarizing your research paper.**

**Resources**

1. Countries and Regions ([*www.worldbank.org*](http://www.worldbank.org))
2. UN millennium development goals ([*https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/*](https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/))
3. World Bank Development Data and Statistics ([*www.worldbank.org/data/*](http://www.worldbank.org/data/))
4. International Monetary Fund ([*www.imf.org*](http://www.imf.org))
5. IMF World Economic Outlook ([*http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/02/index.htm*](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/02/index.htm))
6. United Nations Economic and Social Development ([*www.un.org*](http://www.un.org))
7. United Nations Statistics Division ([*https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/*](https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/))
8. United Nations Development Program ([*www.undp.org*](http://www.undp.org))
9. Human Development Report ([*http://hdr.undp.org/en/*](http://hdr.undp.org/en/))
10. Federal Reserve Economic Data ([*https://fred.stlouisfed.org/*](https://fred.stlouisfed.org/))
11. CIA World Factbook ([*https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/*](https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/))
12. GVSU Library ([*www.gvsu.edu/library*](http://www.gvsu.edu/library))
13. APA Style Guides ([*http://libguides.gvsu.edu/content.php?pid=18532&sid=127267*](http://libguides.gvsu.edu/content.php?pid=18532&sid=127267))

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

For your research paper you must select a developing/underdeveloped country of your choice. Make sure to do some background reading on the country and check the availability of data before finalizing the country.

You must empirically investigate two major current economic issues confronting the country using macroeconomic data and present your findings and policy recommendation in the form of a research paper. Popular topics (and those covered in class) include general growth and development experience of a country; poverty and hunger, inequality and development; urbanization and rural–urban migration, education, health, and human capital; agricultural transformation and rural development; debt, financial crises, and sustainable recovery; environmental sustainability and monetary-fiscal policies for development.

Your completed paper should cover the following items and sections mentioned below.

**The first page should include the following:**

Title of the Paper:

Author (your group names):

Abstract of the paper:

**From the second page onward, please follow the order as given below:**

1. **Introduction (around 1 page)**

This section should first clearly state your research questions and the two emerging market issues you are investigating. You should explain the motivation, and the significance of the issues you are studying. What motivates you to study these issues? Why should we (or the government of the country) care?

1. **Literature Review (around 2 pages)**

The purpose of a Literature Review is to offer an overview of significant literature published on a topic. Literature reviews comprises the following elements:

1. An overview of the subject, issue or theory under consideration, along with the objectives of the literature review
2. Division of works under review into categories (e.g. those in support of a particular position, those against, and those offering alternative theses entirely)
3. Explanation of how each work is similar to and how it varies from the others
4. Conclusions as to which pieces are best considered in their argument, are most convincing of their opinions, and make the greatest contribution to the understanding and development of their area of research

In this section you should give a brief literature review i.e., find materials relevant to the subject being explored. Find 8 articles related to the two issues you are studying (four each) and summarize their work in your own words.[[1]](#footnote-1) You must cite all the articles in the text in proper APA format. Your literature review should be able to address the following questions: Did the authors study similar issues before? What are their main findings? Are there any gaps in the literature? You must be able to show the reader that you know the literature: *“Yes, I am aware of so-and-so's results on this topic.”*

1. **Analysis and Results (around 4 pages)**

In this section, you must analyze the development issues using tools and concepts learnt in this course. You must use key economic and social indicators and time series data (for example data on levels of income per capita, population growth rate, gini index, poverty incidence, agricultural development, human development index, growth rate, inflation, debt to gdp ratio, unemployment rate, foreign direct investment etc.) to conduct your empirical analysis. You should report and summarize your main findings. What are your main findings? Be sure to use your results as evidence to support your arguments. What policy recommendations would you make and why? Make sure that your findings and recommendations are consistent with your evidence.

1. **Conclusion (around 1 page)**

Summarize your findings. You need to convince the reader that you addressed the issues you wanted to study and that you have important findings/recommendations. Make sure that your conclusions are consistent with your analysis.

1. **References (around 2 pages)**

You must create a separate reference list of all the articles/data (you have used for your research) in proper APA format. List all external information in a section of ‘References’ at the end of the paper conforming to APA style.

**Additional Formatting Instructions:**

1. The paper should contain 3000 words (about 10-12 pages in length).
2. All external information must be cited in the text in APA format. For data, indicate the source. For articles or documents, cite them according to APA.
3. Take care to make these graphs "professional" looking: Add appropriate titles, legends, and labels. Choose appropriate size fonts. If you are printing in black-and-white, make sure the format allows the reader to distinguish between the different lines and bars. Do not simply download pre-made graphs from the internet. You are required to create all graphs yourself using Excel.
4. The entire report should be written in Times New Roman style, font size 12, double spaced for the text, with 1-inch margins.
1. Copying and pasting will result in 0 point for the question. Do not copy and paste from previous authors’ work. Formulate your own thoughts and summarize in your own words in sentences, not bullet points. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)