

Final Year Project 2015-16

The Project consists of three parts:

- Literature review and project plan
- Oral and slide presentation of the literature review and project plan
- Dissertation (which will carefully *incorporate* a literature survey)

Submission deadlines

Literature survey and project plan:

Wednesday, 9 December, 12:00 mid-day

Presentation:

This will be scheduled for the 3rd or 4th week of Spring term. (You will be given a scheduled time to present; if you have a valid and evidenced reason, you can request that this be rescheduled.)

You must submit your presentation slides via FASer before your scheduled presentation date.

Dissertation:

Friday, 22 April, 12:00 mid-day

Submit:

One online copy via Online Coursework Submission (FASer):

<https://www.essex.ac.uk/e-learning/tools/faser>

Assessment

Literature Review and project plan: 15 %

Presentation: 15%

Dissertation: 70%

Maximum lengths:

Literature Review: 3,000 words (2,500 words recommended)

Dissertation: 10,000 words (*including* footnotes, appendices, bibliography, etc.)

Note: this is a maximum; a shorter word count is often preferable; *content* and *clarity* are what is important.

Attend all lectures, pc-lab sessions, and workshops given in support of EC831. Lecture and class participation will be recorded in several ways, including attendance, and participation in Moodle forums.

Moodle- check the module material on Moodle for all lectures and lab-sessions.

Oral and slide presentation of literature review and project plan

The project includes a mandatory oral presentation with accompanying slides, worth 15% of the mark. We have introduced this to help our students become more employable. Gaining an experience in public speaking and preparing a slide presentation will give you a 'leg up' in the academic and professional world!

We will assign you a time and a location (a 'session' with other students) to give your presentation, likely to be in weeks 3-4 of Spring term; if the initially proposed time conflicts with your schedule, you can request a change. You will give an oral presentation - with slides - of your literature review and project plan, lasting about 10 minutes, in front of a member of the academic staff. After this the lecturer will take three minutes to ask you questions about your presentation. The lecturer may also interrupt you briefly during your talk to ask clarification questions.

Remember to bring your presentation on a USB stick, as well as submitting it via FASer in advance.

Presentations will take place as a 'session' with several other students. After your presentation, the lecturer will give you some immediate feedback. The mark for your presentation will be given along with the mark for your literature survey and project plan. Marking guidelines for presentations are given in the table further down.

Further guidance on presentations, and supporting reading materials and resources will be provided.

Amending your Title

- Changes of titles are only permitted with the permission of your supervisor as well as from the Director of Undergraduate Projects, (Dr David Reinstein for the Autumn term). To request a change, please enter this on the Moodle feedback form (["Project Registration and changes - First-come-first-serve"](#)); the Director and your supervisor will respond, and will update your allocation on the [Project Assignments Sheet, or give comments](#).
- Significant changes should not normally be made after the end of the Autumn Term, but small changes for clarity and focus will still typically be permitted.

Project supervision

- You will be allocated to a supervisor according to the topic of your project.
- Supervision can only be received by your designated supervisor, typically during their designated office hours. (Other academic staff may be consulted on matters that relate to the modules you have taken with them, during their designated office hours.)
- It is important that you contact your supervisor no later than the second week of the Autumn Term (by 19 October 2015) and again no later than the second week of the Spring Term (by 26 January 2015).
- You should expect to see your supervisor for up to four hours spread throughout the Autumn and Spring Terms.
- All project supervision should be completed no later than the last day of the Spring Term. No further supervision is available during the Easter holidays.

Academic progress

- You are expected to take the initiative to contact your supervisor!
- **By the end of week 8 (middle of November)** – show a first draft of your literature review and project plan to your supervisor, along with a draft of your presentation slides.
- **By the end of February** – show a first draft of your dissertation to your supervisor, demonstrating a substantial part of the project has been completed.

Criteria for Literature Review and Project Plan

First class (69.5% and above)	Upper second class - 2.1 (59.5 – 69.4%)	Lower second class - 2.2 (49.5– 59.4%)	Third - 3rd class (39.5–49.4%)
Perceptive analysis of relevant literature that demonstrates clearly its relevance to the topic of the project	Competent analysis of relevant literature that shows its relevance to the topic of the project	Analysis of relevant literature that shows its relevance to the topic of the project	A description of literature that has a bearing on the topic of the project
An essay that integrates the literature surveyed into a coherent whole, capable of being understood without the requiring the reader to access the surveyed materials	An essay that integrates the literature surveyed in a systematic way that does not merely reproduce any existing survey	An essay that presents a comprehensible survey including a discussion of the merits and shortcomings of the literature surveyed	An essay that shows awareness of topics relevant for the project
A plan that shows clearly how its implementation could result in a dissertation that demonstrates originality in any branch of economics. Where appropriate, potential data sources should be specified and summary statistics given.	A plan that shows clearly how its implementation could result in a dissertation that demonstrates understanding of economics principles for the topic of the project. Where appropriate, potential data sources should be specified.	A plan that shows clearly how its implementation could result in a dissertation that demonstrates knowledge of economic principles relevant for the topic of the project	A plan that shows how its implementation could result in a dissertation that demonstrates knowledge of economic ideas and concepts that have a bearing on the topic of the project

Criteria for the Oral and Slide Presentation (of the literature review and project plan)

First class (69.5% and above)	Upper second class - 2.1 (59.5 – 69.4%)	Lower second class - 2.2 (49.5–59.4%)	Third - 3rd class (39.5–49.4%)
Discussion: Demonstrates a personal and nuanced understanding of the topic and the relevant literature. Responds adequately to questions.	Achieves most of these goals.	Achieves some of these goals	Achieves few of these goals.
Content: Organised outline of literature, clearly related to topic and to project plan. Project plan is realistic and has some detail.	Achieves most of these goals.	Achieves some of these goals	Achieves few of these goals.
Slides: Slides are clear, compelling, relevant, presented in a meaningful order, and integrate with the speech.	Achieves most of these goals.	Achieves some of these goals	Achieves few of these goals.
Speech: Speaks in professional, complete and grammatical sentences, with poise and measured confidence.	Achieves most of these goals.	Achieves some of these goals	Achieves few of these goals.

Criteria for the Dissertation

First class (69.5% and above)	Upper second class - 2.1 (59.5 – 69.4%)	Lower second class - 2.2 (49.5–59.4%)	Third - 3rd class (39.5–49.4%)
A necessary attribute of first class projects is that they demonstrate originality in any branch of economics and they will also satisfy at least one of the following:	Upper-second class projects will demonstrate understanding of economic principles relevant for the topic of the project and they will also satisfy at least one of the following:	Lower-second class projects will show knowledge of economic principles relevant for the topic of the project and they will also satisfy at least one of the following:	Third class projects will show a limited knowledge of economic ideas and concepts that have a bearing on the topic of the project and they will also satisfy at least one of the following:
Innovative construction, estimation and analysis of empirical model (or models) designed to test hypotheses developed in the project	Competent estimation and analysis of an empirical model (or models) available in the literature, together with extensions and modifications adapted to suit the topic of the project	Estimation and limited interpretation of an empirical model (or models) found in the literature, with modifications	Limited description and estimation of an empirical model (or models) replicating those found in the literature but with different data
Construction of a theoretical model to	A survey that integrates and assesses the	A comprehensible survey that discusses	A survey of the literature that shows

address issues relevant for the project, derivation of the predictions of the model and evaluation of their implications	relevant academic literature in a systematic way that does not merely reproduce any existing survey	the merits and shortcomings of the relevant academic literature	awareness of topics relevant for the project
Analysis of existing empirical, theoretical or historical studies in a systematic way that obtains original insights (theoretical, empirical, or both)	Competent presentation and thorough assessment using economic reasoning of one or more aspects of economic policy	An examination of one or more aspects of economic policy that displays appreciation of the issues, together with an attempt at evaluation of the policies	An overview of one or more aspects of economic policy that shows awareness of the economic arguments
Perceptive exposition, discussion and critical evaluation, that goes beyond the existing literature, for one or more aspects of economic policy			

Presentation and length

- Pay particular attention to the guide to good practice in assessed work, you may also like to read '*Excellent Dissertations!*' by Peter Levin (Amazon or Open University Press, McGraw-Hill). Also see "Writing Economics," by Neugboren and Jacobsen, and the materials provided on the EC831 pages.
- **You *must* include a complete bibliography in the form of a list of references**

Every entry in the bibliography must be referred to at some point in the project and every citation in the project must be included in the bibliography!