

Economics 576

Macroeconomic Theory & Policy

About the term paper:

Economics 576 is a graduate course. Accordingly, your term paper should reflect graduate level effort and performance. In addition to selecting and covering an appropriate (and appropriately narrowed) topic, your paper should reflect good organization, punctuation and documentation.

Some Specifics:

Frequent, flagrant spelling and typographical errors are distracting—and reflect a lack of effort and concern for quality.

It is not a moral failure to run a spell check or even proofread a paper before submitting it.

Proper grammar need not be restricted to English composition courses. Pay attention to basic subject and verb agreement. Words such as “to” “too” and “two”, “there” and “their”, “hire” and “higher”, “graph” and “graft”, and “affect” and “effect” **are not interchangeable. Use them correctly.**

Documentation: The purpose of documentation is merely to give credit where credit is due. If you are summarizing someone else’s ideas/work/results (as it is expected you will), then footnote the source. If you are using their actual words as well, then use quotation marks. (See below “Statement on Plagiarism”)

Finally, an Internet address (URL) does NOT constitute adequate or proper documentation.

The author of the work including his/her affiliation, and/or the name of the organization hosting the material must be included in the citation.

POSSIBLE TERM PAPER SUBJECTS

NOTE: The purpose of this list is merely to provide ideas – perhaps a starting point - toward your developing a topic. It is by no means required that your topic come from this list. The only requirement is that the topic you select must relate directly to the course—macroeconomic theory and policy.

1. Effects of tax policy on private capital formation
2. Investment tax credits: how effective?
3. Effects of inflation on private capital formation
4. The structure and accuracy of U.S. (macro performance indicator of your choice, e.g., CPI, PPI, GDP...)
5. The value-added tax: macroeconomic implications
6. Interest rates as a determinant of consumer spending
7. Interest elasticity of investment demand
8. Time lags in monetary (or fiscal) policy
9. Econometric models: structure and accuracy
10. Friedman's permanent income hypothesis
11. The Phillips Curve phenomenon: a critical analysis
12. U.S. saving rate: meaning, measurement, significance
13. The "crowding out" effect

14. Monetarist view of the economy
15. The demand for money function
16. Reaction of the (your choice) industry to cyclical instability
17. Multipliers: theory and empirical evidence
18. The current state of business cycle theory
19. The Accelerator: theory and empirical evidence
20. The “natural rate” of unemployment: theory, significance...
21. Dollarization: the macroeconomic effects on an economy
22. Rational expectations theory

Statement on Plagiarism - Papers submitted in fulfillment of requirements of Economic 576 (Macroeconomic Theory and Policy) will be subject to the following standard relative to plagiarism. This policy has been adapted from definitions, policies and procedures established by New York University’s School of Education.

General Principle: Giving credit to someone whose work has helped one is courteous and honest. Plagiarism, on the other hand, is a form of fraud. Proper acknowledgment marks the difference. A hallmark of the educated student is the ability to recognize and acknowledge information derived from others. I expect that the student will be scrupulous in crediting those sources that have contributed to the development of his/her ideas. In particular, it is the responsibility of the student to learn the proper forms of citation: directly copied material must always be in quotes; even ideas and organization derived from another’s work need to be acknowledged. Paraphrasing constitutes an abbreviated restatement of someone else’s analysis or conclusions.

Definition: Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s work as though it were your own. More specifically, plagiarism is to present as your own a sequence of words quoted without quotation marks from another writer; a

paraphrased passage from another writer's work; facts or ideas gathered, organized, and reported by someone else, orally and/or in writing.

Penalty: Since plagiarism is a matter of fact, not of the student's intention, it is crucial that acknowledgement of sources is accurate and complete. Even where there is no conscious intention to deceive, the failure to make appropriate acknowledgement constitutes plagiarism. Any paper that has been plagiarized will be given the grade of F.