Economics 590: Tutorial in Research Project Design

This course has four goals:
1. Learn about strategies to conduct research.
2. Improve your writing and oral exposition skills.
3. Improve your ability to give and receive constructive criticism.
4. Learn something about the world, by completing an original research project. This project may serve as stepping stone towards a senior honor thesis (Econ 681/682) or Senior Paper (Econ 699).

To achieve these goals, students will have to take an unusually active role. You will have to:
- choose a topic that interests you
- select a style of research that suits your interests, abilities and training
- seek out the resources that you need to support your research
- respond to ideas and comments of your classmates
- give comments to your classmates and others making presentations to our class.

For much of the course, students will take the role of instructor. You will be presenting critiques of research by others (both students and professional economists). You will be making constructive comments and suggestions on presentations by your classmates. And you will be presenting drafts of your own research paper.

There is no textbook for the course. To illustrate research: 1) journal articles will be discussed both by you and me and, 2) invited speakers will present their work. All readings will either be available in the web, or be distributed in class. The class website is at: http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~munia/590/

Requirements
Each student must:
(1) Select and critique, both in (a) writing and (b) an in-class presentation of one undergraduate paper or a journal article from the list provided (5 % of grade);
(2) Select and critique, both in (a) writing and (b) an in-class presentation a research related Journal article (5 % of grade);
(3) Write a 10-15 page original research paper. This involves:
- writing and making an in class presentation of an initial 3 page outline (15 % of grade);
- writing and making an in class presentation of a 8-10 page rough draft (15 % of grade);
- writing a final version of the paper (50% of the grade)
(4) Participate actively in class making comments and suggestions to presentations by others (10% of grade)

Details
Class presentations should use either PowerPoint (or similar), transparencies or handouts. All written work must be word-processed, double spaced, with 1 inch margin, in 10, 11 or 12 font.

Schedule
To be announced.