EC0 3325 – Latin American Economic Issues

Group Presentation Directions

While quizzes and exams are the foundations of this class, an important part to knowledge retention is being able explain concepts to other people. As such, I am assigning a presentation project. You will be expected to work with your assigned group to present a 40 min presentation on a topic relating to Latin American Economic Issues. Groups will be assigned shortly after the midterm.

Topics for the presentation can be anything related to Latin American Economic Issues; however, I strongly recommend you stick to the broad concepts in your textbook that we do not explore in class. That is, present a chapter of the textbook to the class. These include:

* Growth and the environment in LA (Chapter 5)
* LA and primary commodities (Chapter 6)
* Exchange-rate policy (Chapter 9)
* Financing current-account deficits (Chapter 10)
* Macroeconomics stability (Chapter 12)
* Economic policy debates in LA (Chapter 14)

Other possible topics include section of your recommend text: Economics of Development:

* Health (Chapter 9)
* Investment and Savings (Chapter 10)
* Fiscal Policy (Chapter 11)
* Financial Development and Inflation (Chapter 12)
* Foreign Aid (Chapter 14)
* Agriculture and Development (Chapter 16)
* Agricultural Development: technology, Policies, and Institutions (Chapter 17)
* Sustainable Development (Chapter 20)

You are expected to use at least three outside sources for the presentation. Your textbook can help guide you to sources. You must also use some form of visual aid in your presentation. Visual aids could include but are not limited to the whiteboard, PowerPoint, posters, and/or movies. These visual aids must help in the classes understanding of your chosen topic.

Presentations are forty minutes long. Make sure to adjust for any questions that may arise during your presentation. Approximately ten minutes of your presentation will be allocated to answering questions. One member of the group must send me (via email) your group’s topic by 3/19 for my approval. I will not allow groups to present on the same topic, so topics are approved first come first served basis. We will spend the last week of class on presentations. Specifically, the due dates are listed below:

**Due Dates for Topic Approval:**

March 19th

**Due Dates for Presentations:**

Groups 1: April 21st

Groups 2: April 23rd

Groups 3: April 26th

Groups 4: April 28th

Every group will receive one grade. To prevent a free rider problem, each group member must fully comprehend each part of the presentation. I will ask questions directed at individual group members to ensure that work is being done by everyone. The grading is broken down by the rubric on the next page, and a detailed timeline is below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Excellent (20 Points)**  | **Good  (15 Points)**  | **Needs Improvement (10 Points)**  | **Below Standard (0 Points)**  |
| **Comprehension of Topic**  | Explanations are focused and clear. | Attempts made to  show comprehension of topic | Presentation addresses some aspects of topic, but not fully on target.  | Presentation is off topic. |
| **Visual Aids and Presentation Skills** | Use of visual aids illustrate points clearly. Presentation skills were strong. | Visual aids sometimes did not connect to topics or presentation skills were lacking. | Visual aids did not relate to topics being discussed. Presentation skills were weak. | No visual aids were used. Very weak presentation skills. |
| **Use of Sources** | Thoughtful and comprehensive use of 3 sources. | Three sources used well. | Three sources used. | Less than three sources used. |
| **Ability to Answer Questions** | Questions are answered in a thoughtful, factually correct, and respectful way. | Some questions are answered in a thoughtful, factually correct, and respectful way. |  | Answers to questions are not relevant to the questions asked. |
| **Length** | Your presentation covered all the material you set out to cover in 40 minutes. | Your presentation was slightly less than or over the allotted time. | Your presentation was moderately shortly or longer than needed. | Your presentation was over 10 minutes off of the allotted time. |