

# ECO 3325 – Latin American Economic Issues

## Research Paper Directions

Completing and presenting independent research is an integral skill that will be applied in nearly any future industry in which you find yourself. You will be asked to study one specific issue in a specific Latin American country and write a 4-6 page paper on the subject. In this paper, you must offer some piece of policy advice that can help in this issue. Your paper must be well researched and include at least one figure or graph with relevant data. You may also use a graph of an economic model to illustrate a point. For example, if you are discussing shift in demand of a product, it may be helpful to draw a supply and demand graph showing that shift in order to demonstrate the effect of the shift on price and quantity in that market.

Topics for the research paper can be anything related to Latin American Economic Issues. I suggest that you narrow your scope to one particular issue/policy/country/time period as much as possible. Some possible topics include but are not limited to:

- Covid-19 response of a particular country or countries
- Great Recessions responses
- Gender policies
- Fixed exchange rate policies and their results
- Innovation policy
- Hyperinflation in Venezuela
- Microfinancing
- Crime and the economy within a country
- Mexico's trade agreements with the US and Canada
- Health outcomes and policies
- Unionization and growth
- The effect of hosting the World Cup

You are expected to use at least five outside sources for the paper. These sources should be a mixture of news articles and academic sources. You may also want to find data to support your paper. Databases would also count as a source. Your textbook cannot be one these sources; however, the textbook can be used as an additional source. You will receive a -5% for every missing source. I have posted some resources to find sources below:

- <http://economia.lacea.org/>
- <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/world-development-indicators>
- <https://scholar.google.com/>
- <https://www.imf.org/en/Home>
- <https://www.economist.com/>

Finally, your paper should have an introduction, thesis statement, body paragraphs, conclusion, and a work cited page. Your paper should cite all sources in the text itself as well using **MLA format**. Papers without proper citation will not be graded.

### **Due Dates for Topic Approval:**

**March 26<sup>th</sup>**

You must submit your presentation online by **3/26 by 9:40am**. To submit your presentation, go to Blackboard, then the “Course Materials” tab, then click on the “Research Paper” link. Be sure to upload the document in either a .doc, .docx, or .pdf format.

The grading is broken down by the rubric on the next page, and a detailed timeline is below:

	<b>Excellent (20 Points)</b>	<b>Good <sup>[SEP]</sup>(15 Points)</b>	<b>Needs Improvement (10 Points)</b>	<b>Below Standard (0 Points)</b>
<b>Comprehension of Topic</b>	Explanations are focused and clear.	Attempts made to <sup>[SEP]</sup> show comprehension of topic	Paper addresses some aspects of topic, but not fully on target.	Paper is off topic.
<b>Connection to Economics</b>	Economic theory is used correctly and elevates the discussion of the topic.	Economic theory is used well.	Economic theory is referenced.	No economic theory is used.
<b>Original Graphs</b>	1 original figures, graphs, or tables relate to the material and are explained well.	1 original figures, graphs, or tables are used. Explanation is lacking.	1 original figures, graphs, or tables are used but do not connect to material.	No graphs are used.
<b>Spelling and Grammar</b>	No spelling and grammar problems.	Only minor spelling and grammar problems.	A few major spelling and grammar errors.	Major spelling and grammar errors.
<b>Length</b>	Paper was between 4 and 6 pages.	Paper was slightly less or more than 4-6 pages.	Paper was over a page less or more than 4-6 pages.	Paper significantly less than or greater than 4-6 pages.