Notes on the Homework Assignments

During the semester, I will set several short homework assignments. Most will entail about a page of writing, and you should think of them as “warm-ups” for class discussion and for your research project. The assignments will be on a fairly wide range of topics. Some will be about research ideas that you have, others will be about econometric issues, and still others will ask you think about a specific evaluation problem. There will usually be a homework assignment for each week in which you do not have a presentation or another writing assignment due for Economics 499.

Please type and double-space all the homework assignments. (I presume that you will use a word processor.) The assignments will be graded as follows:

- check-plus — for an especially thoughtful and well-written assignment
- check — for an assignment that is on time, addresses the questions posed, and is correct, neat, properly spelled, and grammatical
- check-minus — for an assignment that is either late or, although handed in on time, is perfunctory or contains grammatical mistakes or spelling errors
- zero — for an assignment that is not handed in

On the day the assignment is due, we will discuss your responses in class, so you should print out two copies — one for me and one for yourself.

First Homework Assignment

The first assignment has two parts. In part 1, write down what you feel to be the three most important things you have learned in economics during your time in college. Also, describe briefly why you feel these things are important.

The second part of of the assignment is to write down three things that you are curious about. You might want to pose these as questions. These need not be related to economics in any obvious way; they simply need to be things about which you have a genuine intellectual curiosity.