

**ECON 184:**  
**Guidelines for the presentation and paper**

# 1 Group presentations

## 1.1 Theme

- Goal: describe the economic performance of two African countries in the last 30 years.
- Questions
  - How did the economic growth vary during those years?
  - What were the main factors that explain the observed patterns?
  - Did both countries perform in a similar way? Why? or why not?
  - Which policies, if any, facilitate or restricted economic growth? Consider here a broad spectrum of policies.
  - Are the countries on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)?

- Unless crucial to your presentation, don't allocate too much time talking about
  - Geography: Location, size, population, main products, main exports, etc.
  - History: independence, colonial government, etc..
  - Institutions: political organization, wars, etc.

## 1.2 Presenting

- Presentations will start on May 13 until June 5.
- Two groups will present per class.
- Each group will have 12min to present (time yourself before presenting).
- Feel free to use any type of media for your presentations.
- An electronic copy will be posted afterwards on the course website.

- This is the order of the presentations (randomly chosen)

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Date	Groups	
Tuesday, May 13	7	9
Thursday, May 15	3	6
Tuesday, May 20	2	8
Thursday, May 22	1	12
Tuesday, May 27	10	14
Thursday, May 29	5	4
Tuesday, June 03	11	13

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## 1.3 Sources

- The syllabus has some information about sources.
- You can find more from The World Bank, International Monetary Fund, UN, African Development Bank.
- Through the UCR library you can have access to the World Development Indicators (WDI.)
- Some links can be found through the course blog (<http://appliedmicro.blogspot.com>)
- Please, do not include Wikipedia as your source of information.

## 2 The paper

## 2.1 Goals

- Find a program or policy implemented in one of the two countries you covered for your presentation in order to achieve one of the MDG.
- Examples:
  - Eliminating fees for primary schools.
  - Transferring money to the poor.
  - Land tenure changes.
  - Vaccination programs, etc.
- The goal of the paper is to describe the policy and analyze its impact.
- **Note:** please discuss the topic of your paper with me as early as possible.

## 2.2 Structure

- Length: 10-15 pages **total**, double-space.
- Structure:
  - Describe the policy.
  - What are the expected outcomes?
  - Why was it implemented? What MDG is targeted by the policy?
  - When did it happen? Where: urban, rural, national?
  - How was implemented and for how long. What are the mechanisms to achieve the outcomes?
  - Is/Was the policy successful? Why? Why not? How can you measure that?
  - Would it be a good idea to implement such a policy in other African countries?

## 2.3 Sources

- The Economist, the Financial Times, the Wall Street Journal, NYT, LA Times, BBC and the internet in general.
- Several NGOs and governments have program in Africa such as Oxfam, Save the Children, USAID, DfID, etc.
- The course blog has some links to programs in Africa.
- The World Bank is also a good source for programs in Africa.
- The MDG websites are also important.
- You can also find more information in Jeffrey Sachs's new book "Common Wealth" and on his website.
- Deadline: May 29 (during class.) **No Extensions.**