Project Instructions

Assignment: Write a short (3-5 pages of text) paper on international macroeconomic problems facing a chosen country or international institution.

Due date: Monday December 9, 2002. You may put the paper in my Economics department mailbox in 4S01 Posvar Hall (on the right as you enter), drop the paper off with my Economics secretary, Nettie DiDiano (4A01 Posvar Hall) or my Dean’s office receptionist, Rebecca Shane, 5141 Sennott Square. Papers are due NO LATER than 5 p.m. Late papers will be marked down a full grade.

Tips:

1. Choose a single, specific issue such as:
   a. should Britain adopt the euro?
   b. should the IMF be enlarged?
   c. are current economic problems in Germany due to the euro?

   If you are unsure about a topic, ask me. Good sources for topics on the web include Professor Nouriel Roubini’s website on global macroeconomics at: http://www.stern.nyu.edu/globalmacro/ & the Financial Times website at: http://www.ft.com.

2. Provide some background (historical or economics or both) to the question.

   Note: This will probably require you to construct some tables of data or charts of behavior. Data are available on the International Financial Statistics (IFS) CD-ROM. Copies of this CD can be found in the GSPIA/Economics Library (1G12 Posvar Hall). See me if you need help using this resource.

3. Provide an answer to the question.

4. Make your case for the answer.

   Note: Your case may be based on political considerations. If so, economic aspects of these considerations must also be discussed.

5. Use normal margins and include references. If you use material from the web, include a reference for that material that gives the URL. If you have questions about about grammar or the format for citations or other style questions, consult The Little, Brown Compact Handbook by Jane Aaron. This book is used in General Writing courses and is available in the Pitt Bookstore.

6. The University has a policy on plagiarism. It reads, to present “as one's own, for academic evaluation, the ideas, representations, or words of another person or persons without customary and proper acknowledgment of sources” is to plagiarize. If I find evidence of plagiarism in your work, I will assign a failing grade.
Grading:

I will grade you paper based on the **quality of your analysis and not on whether I agree with your recommendation**. If you offer an solution to an economic problem you should explain how this solution will work and what, if any, could be some negative consequences. I will reduce the grade on your paper by two levels (e.g. A to B+) for repeated misspellings and/or grammatical problems.

Other tips:

1. In preparing your assignment, keep in mind that it is difficult to describe numbers unless you have a comparison group. In some situations, this comparison should be with past history (e.g. "4% inflation in the mid 1980s represents a return to inflation levels not experienced by Guatland since the early 1960s"). In other situations, your comparison should be with other countries (e.g. "Guatland had a rate of economic growth over this period of 2% per year, about the same as the United States and double the growth rate of most other countries in the region").

2. Writing shouldn't be any more complicated than spoken language. Use simple direct sentences. Make sure that each paragraph focuses on one single topic. Take your time in spelling out what you are trying to say. Avoid using words that aren't part of your normal vocabulary. Read your assignments out loud. If they don't sound like something you would say in conversation, they probably should be rewritten.