ECN 201 – Econometrics Project

From this point onward one of your tasks will be working on an econometric project—where you choose your topic, gather your data, and carry out an analysis. Here is a checklist for your preparations.

- Read Studenmund, Chapter 11, “A Regression User’s Handbook”.
- Select a topic. I will give various suggestions on this point. You should take a look at some existing studies pertaining to your topic, to get an idea of what have been considered sensible models. See scholar.google.com.
- Search (the internet and/or traditional printed sources and/or the databases available via gretl) for relevant data.
- Write up a short proposal (one decent-sized paragraph would do) outlining the question you plan to address, citing a few relevant sources, and giving an indication of where you will get your data. This proposal should be handed to me by Monday, March 22.

I will check your proposals for suitability and consult with you individually on possible (additional) readings and data sources.

The project itself should be structured as follows (with some room for variation):

1. **Introduction**: An explanation of what you’re investigating and why, plus some notes on what other people have said about your topic.

2. **The data**: A thorough, detailed account of your data sources and the precise meaning of the various variables, their units of measurement and so on. (As you go along, be sure to keep a detailed record; this is very difficult to reconstruct afterwards.) Basic descriptive statistics would be good here, and probably some graphs too. (If the data set itself is not too massive it should be printed as an Appendix to the final paper.)

3. **Your modeling**: I don’t need a complete blow-by-blow history of every model you estimate, but I do want an account of where you started and, at least in general terms, how you arrived at your preferred model(s).

4. **Testing**: A careful account of relevant hypothesis tests and their meaning.

5. **Conclusions**: At the end of the day, what can you say about the topic you chose, based on the results of your econometric modeling and testing?