First, let me apologize for not being in class the first day. I am in the UK doing some empirical trade research myself. I will be here for the second class meeting on Wednesday, January 20, at which time I will have a full reading list for you. The purpose of this communication is to indicate what the course assignments will be and to tell you what to begin reading.

Course Assignments

There will be three graded assignments in the course.

1. You will write a literature review of one area of research listed on the reading list. (Subject choices not on the reading list will need my approval.) In addition to the articles listed there, I will expect you to locate and explain/criticize the analysis in the other major articles in the area. I anticipate this review to be 10-15 double-spaced pages and to serve as a precursor for the research project in number 3. The literature review will be due in class on Wednesday, February 24.

2. There will be a take-home written examination covering class materials that are discussed before presentations of research projects. The examination will be given out on April 7 and will be due April 19.

3. You will prepare a research project analyzing empirically (that is, using econometrics or some kind of computational analysis) an issue in trade theory or trade policy. For this purpose, it will be acceptable to conduct a preliminary analysis with available data sources; the projects might ordinarily be expected to lead into a fuller project with better data and/or dissertation research. Each student will present his or her paper in a class period between April 12 and May 3. Other students will be expected to attend those presentations and provide constructive criticism.

Initial Readings

A full listing will be circulated soon. For now, you should read the following three references (in order):


Because I will have you read most of the Leamer book, a duplicated version of most of its chapters is available for purchase in the book center in the UMC (unfortunately, the book itself is out of print). I have left copies of the other two articles with Professor Feeney. Students in the class will probably wish to collaborate on duplicating these (and others in the future) articles.