

Florida International University
ECO 4933 Topics in Theory – Fall 2015
General Guidelines for the Final Presentation

As per the Syllabus, in lieu of the Final Exam students have to prepare a presentation. The dates are stated in the Syllabus. This file contains instructions you need to follow to prepare a successful presentation.

a. Papers

You will find a file in my website (http://bit.ly/dm_fiu1) containing a list of papers that can be used as the basis of the presentation. If there is a paper not included in the list but that you would like to present, send me the details (title, author (s), journal where the paper was published and date), I will check said paper and will let you know if it is admissible or not. You have to select at least three papers, list them in the order of preference and submit your choice in an email to be send before **October 31, 2015**.

b. Finding and getting a copy of the paper

In order to find the papers you will need to use a specialized search engine. Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com/>) provides very good results in my experience. Microsoft has an alternative called Microsoft Academic Search (<http://academic.research.microsoft.com/>) but I don't have any personal experience with it. Independent of what search site you use, you have to perform the search and download the paper using an FIU computer or your personal computer connected to the FIU network. Academic journals require a subscription to access their content. Students don't have subscriptions but universities do, hence the need to connect from FIU.

c. Preparing the presentation

Once your choice of paper has been approved you start preparing your presentation. These are some guidelines that can improve your presentation:

- Your presentation will last between 10 and 15 minutes, therefore do not use more than one slide per minute, when possible.
- Only include two or three bullets per slide, four at most.
- Develop a script for the presentation were you can have more details but only put the essentials on the slides
- Use a big font so that people sitting in the back of the classroom can read the content of each slide
- Use an attractive template. You can find templates on the web or you can go to <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/templates/?CTT=97>

There are several web sites that will teach you how to prepare a successful presentation. They include, but are not limited to:

www.emze.com

<https://prezi.com/>

www.slideshare.com

Choose the one that works best for you.

d. Content

The papers you are going to present are peer-reviewed scientific papers published in reputable journals. They are divided in several sections. The first part typically contains an introduction with the basic intuition, the idea that the author wants to present and prove. There are going to be several sections in the middle that are highly technical in nature and there will be final section with the conclusion. Concentrate in the first and last one. You only need to communicate the topic of the paper and the conclusion(s) that the author(s) arrived at.

e. Presentation schedule

After the due date to submit your preferred paper(s) I will post a schedule in my web page. You will be assigned not only a paper to present but also a date and time. The dates are already in the course Syllabus. The time will be a slot between the beginning and end of the class time (e.g. 3:30 to 3:45PM). You are expected to be punctual and ready to present during your allocated time. If you present as a team make sure that every member of the team presents a part of the paper. Your presentations will be graded based on the overall quality but also on the **individual** skills of the team. Each member of a team may get different grades.

f. Written summary

Besides the presentation, you have to write a summary of the paper between 3 and 5 pages long, double spaced, with a 12 point font at most. Make sure to include the name of the author (s) of the paper, title, journal where it was originally published and the information about the individual presenter or the members of the team. This summary, along with a copy of the presentation, have to be sent to me on or before the day of the presentation. These two documents are the proof of your work but they are not a substitute of the presentation in front of the class. Failure to submit them will result in no grade for your presentation.

g. Final thoughts

Why a Presentation? Most of the students in this course will graduate soon. As professionals working for different types of institutions you will be required to prepare presentations for clients, coworkers, regulators, etc. This is safe way for students to develop their presentation skills.

This document contains essential guidelines. I hope I have covered all the important points. If you feel that you need more help let me know. We can discuss it in class, after class or via email.

Good Luck!