ECONOMICS 151: Economic and Human Geography
PRESENTATIONS

One component of this course is to pick an issue of interest and make a presentation on the subject to the class. The presentations themselves will be near the end of the semester, and should be accompanied by PowerPoint slides (which you will send to me electronically). In order to prepare for the presentations, one-page summaries/outlines are due on Wednesday, March 23, 2016, which will allow for some time for me to provide feedback.

A good presentation will take a question of interest and provide a clear answer, drawing on the ideas of the course. The biggest challenge is to find a good question. In looking for a question, try to have a client or at least a well-defined audience, in mind, and then aim to be persuasive.

The length of the presentation will depend on the size of the group (maximum three persons). Here are the rules:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of group</th>
<th>Maximum length of presentation/# of slides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5 minutes / 8 slides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8 minutes / 12 slides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>11 minutes / 16 slides</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The PowerPoint presentations should be visually compelling, and should include at least one map, preferably constructed with Tableau. Most of all, the case you make should be clear and convincing. The presentation will be evaluated on a several criteria, including:

a. Choice of an interesting or important topic;
b. Clear structure of the argument/discussion/description;
c. Accurate and rigorous analysis;
d. Adequate consideration of different theories or points of view (if appropriate);
e. Effective use of visual aids;
f. Use of a clear, strong voice, good eye contact, appropriate posture and dress, vigor!

Any topic of relevance to the course is reasonable. Here are twenty ideas, but don't feel limited to these:

1. Are there too few or too many barriers to migration worldwide?
2. Extent and causes of desertification.
3. Will fish farming save ocean fisheries?
4. Are US cities dense enough?
5. Recent non-Western influences on US culture, and their origins.
6. Why do sex ratios differ?
7. The effects of glaciation.
8. What will the effects of “the big one” (earthquake) be on California?
9. How insurance companies are reacting to climate change.
10. The changing geography of religion.
11. What will we be eating in 2050?
12. If not nation states, then how should states be defined?
13. Gerrymandering: a con by the pros?
14. Is Central Place theory still useful?
15. What should the Boston city planners do next?
16. Genetically Modified Organisms: food salvation or folly?
17. Explaining the geographic pattern of obesity.
18. How Boston’s climate has changed over the past two generations.
19. What makes a good map?
20. Explaining the rise and fall and rise of Rome.