**Econ 136: Working with Economic Data**

**Take-Home Midterm Guidelines**

By making this a take-home my intention is to allow you to take this exam on a self-scheduled basis anytime between 11am on Wednesday and 9am on Friday. Just allocate 75 minutes (longer if we’ve agreed to special accommodations) when you can take the exam on a closed-notes basis at a location where you will not be disturbed. You may use a calculator and ruler and any scratch sheets you wish, but I will only grade material inserted in the blue book.

I’ve designed the exam to be taken in 50 minutes. Please use the extra time to prepare and then review your answers – not lengthen them! The gain from spending more time on one answer is unlikely to offset the loss from not devoting enough time to another. **Think before you start to write.**

The exam will draw from the material emphasized in our joint class work together and your two written assignments through Monday, February 24. During Wednesday’s class we will work on examples of the sorts of questions that will appear on the midterm.

There will be a mixture of short analytical problems and brief explanations. I haven’t decided yet whether there will be choice in each section. If I don’t give you choice, then I promise to discount answers to questions where you clearly have encountered a mind-freeze.

I will evaluate each answer against the rubric which follows, so you should have it in mind as you think about how to respond to the questions:

I will evaluate each answer against the following rubric:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Exemplary  5 | High Quality  4 | Adequate  3 | Needs Improvement  2 |
| For each analytical problem | |  |  |  |
| Analytical Content | Clever or insightful analysis | Flawless application of appropriate analytical tool | No more than one or two flaws in application of tool | Inappropriate or flawed application of tool |
| Structure | Effective integration of response and analytical tool | No missing steps or extraneous arguments | Holes or detours in only a few places | Incomplete reasoning |
| Attention to Presentation |  |  | Caught obvious flaws | No evidence of proof reading |
| For explanatons | | |  |  |
| Content | Compelling explanation | No missing elements | On point, but missing key elements | Flawed reasoning or conclusion |
| Structure | Easy to follow the logic of the explanation | No missing steps or extraneous arguments | Holes or detours in only a few places | Incomplete reasoning or fails to address question |
| Attention to Presentation |  | Easy to find thesis | Caught obvious flaws | No evidence of proof reading |
|  | | | | |
| Exam | Consistently exemplary or good answers; special spark offsets weaker answers | Consistently good answers or sufficient excellence on some | Uneven performance | Preponderance of answers no better than adequate |