**EMBA MACRO 2017 Assignments Packet**

Class dates: May 20, June 3, June 17, July 1, July 15

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| **Assignment (individual or team)** | **Points** | **Due dates** |
| Policy Assignment 1 (team) | 40 | June 3 |
| Policy Assignment 2 (team) | 50 | June 17 |
| I’m Lost! (team) | 30 | July 1 |
| Economic Dashboard (team) | 90 | First draft: June 3  Second draft: June 17  Third draft: July 1  **Final draft: July 15** |
| Macro Exam (individual; take-home; open book) | 90 | July 15 (not in this packet; will be sent on July 2) |
| **TOTAL** | **300** |  |

**What’s due when**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **What’s due** | **Points** |  |
| June 3 | Policy Assignment 1 (team)  First draft of Economic Dashboard (team) | 40  5 | See this packet for instructions |
| June 17 | Policy Assignment 2 (team)  Second draft of Economic Dashboard (team) | 50  15 | See this packet for instructions |
| July 1 | I’m Lost! (team)  Third draft of Economic Dashboard (team) | 30  20 | See this packet for instructions |
| July 15 | Final draft of Economic Dashboard (team)  Macro Exam (individual) | 50  90 | See this packet for instructions  Will be sent to you on July 2 |

**Some guidance on assignments**

* Assignments and exams are due to me at the start of the class by both email ([ploungani@imf.org](mailto:ploungani@imf.org)) and in hard copy (I am sorry about not being ‘green’ but having the hard copy versions allows me to use my time at the airport and in the plane productively).
* The **PPTs** that you put together for the team assignments and the dashboard should be presented in class on June 3, June 17 and July 15, respectively. The presentations of the assignments should be 7 minutes each and the dashboard presentation should be 15 minutes. You should pick one person, or at most two, to represent your team and do the talking. It will help to write out your **speaking notes**: what your team is going to say. Most people speak 100 words a minute; so, write out and edit, as a team, the 700 or 1500 words your team is going to say through its representative(s).

**POLICY ASSIGNMENT 1 (40 points): Due by e-mail** ([ploungani@imf.org](mailto:ploungani@imf.org)) **and in hard copy at the start of class** **on** **June 3**.

**Part 1 (10 points)**

What policy action will the National Bank of Poland take at its meeting on June 6-7? You should: (i) predict the action; (ii) state the reasoning the central bank will give to explain its action. Look at previous statements the Bank has made to explain its policy actions: <http://www.nbp.pl/homen.aspx?f=/en/onbp/organizacja/rada_archiwum.html>

**Part 2 (10 points)**

What policy action will the Reserve Bank of Australia take at its meeting on June 7? You should (i) predict the action; (ii) state the reasoning the central bank will give to explain its action. Look at previous statements the Bank has made to explain its policy actions: <http://www.rba.gov.au/monetary-policy/int-rate-decisions/2016/>

**Part 3 (5 points)**

What policy action will the U.S. Federal Reserve take at its policy meeting on June 14?

**Part 4 (15 points)**

In class, we discussed the behavior of the U.S. labor market (employment and the unemployment rate). Provide a similar analysis of employment and unemployment rates for the following states: Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee. You should discuss: (i) each state’s labor market experience; (ii) what might account for differences among the experiences of these states; (iii) how the experience of these states differs from the national experience and why that might be the case.

WHAT YOUR OUTPUT SHOULD LOOK LIKE:

You should turn in a **PPT** with 16 slides.

Organization of PPT:

Slide 1: Team number and names & photos of team members

Slide 2: Part 1: one bullet stating the decision; rest of that slide for your reasoning.

Slide 3: Part 2: one bullet stating the decision; rest of that slide for your reasoning.

Slide 4: Part 3: one bullet stating the decision

Slides 5-14: Part 4: you can organize the discussion as you wish

Slide 15: **Speaking notes** for Part 4

Slide 16: Dissents: use this slide if one or more of your team members had a dissenting view

(e.g. on the likely policy action by a central bank). Dissents give you bragging rights if you turn out to be right and the rest of the team wrong (or grief if it’s the other way around); I also use correct dissents to give you an extra 1-2 points at the end of the course if you end up on the border between grades. If there are no dissents, put some cartoon or anything else that you wish.

**Your team’s class presentation should be on Part 4 only.**

**POLICY ASSIGNMENT 2 (50 points): Due by e-mail** ([ploungani@imf.org](mailto:ploungani@imf.org)) **and in hard copy at the start of class** **on** **June 17**.

**Part 1 (15 points):** What policy action will the National Bank of Poland take at its meeting on July 4-5? You should: predict the draft statement it will issue. Look at previous statements the Bank has made to explain its policy actions: <http://www.nbp.pl/homen.aspx?f=/en/onbp/organizacja/rada_archiwum.html>

**Part 2 (15 points):** What policy action will the Reserve Bank of Australia take at its meeting on July 4? You should predict the draft statement it will issue. Look at previous statements the Bank has made to explain its policy actions: <http://www.rba.gov.au/monetary-policy/int-rate-decisions/2016/>

**Part 3 (5 points)** The U.S. payroll employment report will be released on July 7. What are your team’s predictions for (i) the increase in nonfarm payroll employment in June and (ii) the U.S. unemployment rate for June?

**Part 4 (15 points):** In class, we discussed the evidence on convergence or catch-up in incomes among nations of the world. Summarize the evidence on whether there is convergence in incomes among U.S. states.

WHAT YOUR OUTPUT SHOULD LOOK LIKE: You should turn in a **PPT** with 14 slides and your speaking notes (700 words maximum) for Part 4.

Slide 1: Team number and names and photos of team members

Slides 2-3: Part 1: for your statement.

Slides 4-5: Part 2: for your statement.

Slide 6: Part 3: your predictions for the increase in nonfarm payroll employment and the U.S unemployment rate

Slides 7-12: Part 4: you can organize the discussion as you wish

Slide 13: **Speaking notes** for Part 4

Slide 14: Dissents: use this slide if one or more of your team members had a dissenting view (e.g. on the likely policy action by a central bank). I will use correct dissents to give you an extra 1-2 points at the end of the course if you end up on the border between grades. If there are no dissents, put some cartoon or anything else that you wish.

**Your team’s class presentation should be on Part 4 only.**

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**I’M LOST (30 points): Due by e-mail** ([ploungani@imf.org](mailto:ploungani@imf.org)) **and in hard copy at the start of class** **on** **July 1**.

Each team should turn in three questions based on material in the reading list and two other questions based on any economic issue they have encountered in the blogosphere or on TV that pertains to the subject matter of the course.

**ECONOMIC DASHBOARD (90 points)**

*Overview of the assignment:* In this course, you’ll learn about a number of indicators such as real GDP, the inflation rate, the unemployment rate, the federal funds rate and many more. This assignment asks you to sift through all this information and come up with a set of economic indicators that matter for the performance of a particular industry. Here’s how to go about it:

1. Choose your industry: You can design a dashboard for any industry. Some possibilities are health care, tourism, automobiles, real estate/construction—but do not feel limited to this set. You can also choose to focus on one business segment of an industry.
2. Choose your industry performance indicators: You have flexibility in defining the performance indicator(s) – sales, profits, employment, stock price, etc.
3. Choose your national or regional or global economic indicators: You should start by considering the national economic indicators we have discussed in class. But your final dashboard could include regional economic indicators if those are more relevant to your industry. Global indicators (e.g. real GDP growth in China) are fine as well—or any other economic factors that turn out to be important.

*Final Product:* The final product is a **PowerPoint presentation** of 20 slides.

Slide 1: Team number and names and photos of team members

Slide 2-4: Background on the industry chosen.

Slides 5-6: The indicator(s) of industry performance you have chosen to explain

(plot the data; discuss why this indicator is preferable to others)

Slides 7-13: The macroeconomic indicators that you tried; discuss whether these indicators turned out to be related to industry performance; any other relevant information.

Slide 14-17: Versions of “The Dashboard”

Slide 18-19: **Speaking notes** for your presentation

Slide 20 ‘Wildcard’ slide – use it as you wish.

***Due dates (all drafts are due by email to*** [ploungani@imf.org](mailto:ploungani@imf.org) ***and in hard copy at the start of the class):***

1. First draft: On June 3, slides 1-4 of the presentation are due. That is, you should pick an industry and discuss which indicator(s) of industry performance you have chosen to explain. (5 points)
2. Second draft: On June 17, slides 1-6 of the presentation are due. In this draft, you should add information on the economic indicators you are using to explain the indicator(s) of industry performance. Slides presented in the first draft can be revised without penalty. (15 points)
3. Third draft: On July 1, slides 1-13 of the presentation are due. In this draft, you should add information on whether the economic indicators you picked turned out to be correlated with the indicator(s) of industry performance. Slides presented in the first two drafts can be revised without penalty. (20 points)
4. Final version: On July 15, the final version of the full presentation is due. Slides presented in earlier drafts can be revised without penalty (50 points; includes 5 points for presentation)