

**American University
School of International Service**

SIS 628: 007—Communicating Economics to Non-Economists

Policy Brief

All assignments and exams should be submitted by email to ploungani@imf.org.

Please note that the email is an IMF address. Yes, you should send it to this IMF address. Yes, that means that you should ***not*** send it to the AU address. You can, ***in addition to sending it to the IMF email***, send it through Blackboard but this is not essential.

Instructions:

- 1) The policy brief should be no more than 3000 words; there is no minimum (read the Gettysburg Address for inspiration on keeping things short!). References, charts and tables do not count toward the word limit, but keep their numbers reasonable (say, about 5-10 references, 2-3 charts, 1-2 tables).
- 2) The topic should be related to economics, preferably macroeconomics. The brief can be a piece of original research (e.g. estimating the Phillips Curve for a country for which there aren't hundreds of estimates already), a summary of work on some topic (e.g. the effects of increases in the minimum wage in a particular city), or your informed views (you can't just go on a rant) on some issue (e.g. does higher GDP equate to greater happiness).
- 3) This is an individual assignment.

Deadlines:

- 1) By 5 pm on March 27, send me the topic of your policy brief.
- 2) By 5 pm on April 10, send me the first draft of your PPT presentation—no more than 4 slides—so I can give you some feedback.
- 3) For those presenting on April 17: send me your speech of 500-700 words (see below) and the final 4 slides by email (ploungani@imf.org) by 5 pm that day.
- 4) For those presenting on April 24: send me your speech of 500-700 words (see below) and the final 4 slides by email (ploungani@imf.org) by 5 pm that day.
- 5) The text of the policy brief (including any charts and tables) must be sent to be by email (ploungani@imf.org) by 5 pm on May 1.

Instructions for the in-class presentations:

- 1) The presentation should not take more than 5-7 minutes. Most people speak 100 words a minute. So you should write out exactly what you are going to say and it should not be more than 700 words (this is the "speech" referred to above). You will lose points if you go over 7 minutes. If you have to say "As I mentioned before, ..." you will lose points: you only have time to say things once.
- 2) Think about the relationship between what you will be saying and what's on your PPT. The PPT should be there to illustrate what you cannot say (e.g. your graph of the Phillips Curve relationship) or to provide the audience with a reminder of the structure of what you are saying.

Grading: The in-class presentation (on April 17 or 24) will carry 30% of the weight and the text you submit on May 1 the remainder. (This assignment has a weight of 25% in the overall grade.)