**Econ 313**

Winter 2024

Bates College

Paper Assignment

This assignment constitutes 40% of your course grade.

**Topic:** You are to choose your own topic. While you are not required to inform me of your topic before submitting your paper, please feel free to discuss it with me beforehand. Your paper should either examine a topic related to the Great Recession or covid-19 recession (or its aftermath) that we did not discuss in class, or it should explore a topic in significantly greater detail. Papers that simply rehash class material will receive poor grades. Good papers will apply the theoretical and empirical tools from class to their topic. You are not expected to develop original theories or perform original empirical estimation (although feel free to do so if you are ambitious). Some things to keep in mind:

1. When in doubt, narrow your topic. It is far easier to extend a seemingly small subject than to adequately summarize a vast subject in a short paper.

2. Good papers may be either normative (advocating a particular position/policy) or positive (describing an issue).

3. Your grade will largely depend on the contribution that your paper makes beyond what was discussed in class.

4. Don't neglect your other coursework. If your training in other economics courses, or other disciplines provides insight to your topic, then include it in your paper.

5. Expect that the quality of your writing may affect your paper grade. Keep in mind that this assignment is due during a very busy time of the year. I make no apologies for the fact that a clearly presented paper is likely to score better than a poorly written paper, even if the underlying quality

of the economic analysis is the same. Don't hesitate to take advantage of the writing resources available at Bates.

**Deadlines and Submission:**

There are two due dates, fifteen days apart. The first is the deadline to submit a first draft. This deadline is 5 PM on Thursday, 4/4/24. While you are not required to submit a first draft, I guarantee that you will have at least five days to incorporate my suggestions, even if that entails extending your final due date. The second due date is the deadline for submission of your completed paper. This deadline is 5 PM on Friday, 4/19/24. Your completed paper must meet the following requirements or I will not accept it:

1. Submit your draft by sharing it as a Google doc. Please submit final papers as pdfs by e-mail prior to the deadline.

2. 12 pt font.

3. The maximum word count is 8000 words. You need not use all of this and you certainly should not increase your paper's length just because you are under the limit. If you are using half of this limit, however, then you may consider whether you are providing enough detail.

**Plagiarism and Unpleasantries:** All papers may be electronically analyzed to verify that they constitute original work. I reserve the right to submit your paper to electronic databases that will check for academic misconduct both during this term and in the future. If you object to this condition, then your only recourse is to drop the class.

You are required to properly cite others' work. This includes giving credit whenever you quote or paraphrase another person's work, or when you borrow their ideas. Restating a sentence does not absolve you of your obligation to give credit. If you need help or have questions, then ask. Failing to properly cite is a common form of unintentional plagiarism and will adversely affect your grade.

Intentional plagiarism is the deliberate or unreasonably careless representation of another's work as your own, either as a portion of your paper or as its entirety. This includes, but is not

limited to, purchasing a paper that someone else wrote, using a friend's paper, downloading a paper from the internet, or knowingly aiding in another student's intentional plagiarism. Intentional plagiarism represents academic misconduct and I intend to fully pursue all instances. Although all cases are judged individually, previous penalties for intentional plagiarism in this course have included a failing grade for the entire class. In one egregious case, this failure was listed on the student's transcript as "failure due to academic misconduct."

If you are planning on using a paper from another class as the basis for this assignment, you must clear it with me beforehand. I am not entirely opposed to your doing this, provided that there is a substantial and new contribution to the paper that is related to this course. Failing to clear this with me, however, may adversely affect your grade. Extreme cases (e.g. handing in exactly the same paper from another class) may be treated as intentional plagiarism.

**Use of Chat GPT or Other AI.** You my not use AI to choose your topic, formulate your argument, or craft a complete draft. You may use AI 1) as as editor to improve your writing and structure. This means that you may ask AI to make suggestions as long as you then thoughtfully consider whether and how to incorporate them and 2) to suggest additional sources. Using AI to write a complete paper is both easy to detect and intentional plagiarism.

**If you use AI in any way, you must include a footnote explaining precisely how.**