

EC 210

Fall Newsletter

Prof. Santetti

Fall 2024

PURPOSE: As part of our attempt to make Economics concepts more *inclusive* and *accessible*, the purpose of this assignment is to produce a **newsletter** containing diverse topics related to (Macro)economics and your **learning** therefrom.

Newsletters are *written electronic* documents with an **accessible, straightforward** language. This format allows its writers to **curate information** on different issues and stories, and its readers are provided with original **sources** to dive deeper on the subject if they want to.

It is likely that (at least some of) you are subscribed to some newsletter(s). If not, I have put some suggestions on the next page to get started. **Substack** is also a great place to browse newsletters across different areas. This assignment is an opportunity to craft something that *pleases* you, while having the opportunity to work in a *single team*. Furthermore, you may add this assignment's final product to your portfolio/website/resume/etc. in the future.

HOW THIS WILL WORK: For this assignment, students will work **as a single group** to produce a **Fall semester newsletter**. The content will be *entirely curated by students*. I will provide some basic guidelines, though. These are:

- **A creative newsletter title;**
- **An interesting layout/design to the newsletter;**
 - *Your visual content matters!*
- **Covering at least three (3) macroeconomics-related news/stories that have taken place this past Summer/Fall.** For example, you may talk about recent unemployment/inflation releases; some economic policy that took place in some country; some interesting graph you came across, etc.
- **Have at least one (1) student/faculty "spotlight."** This can be an interview with/profile of/article written by an Emerson student, an Emerson faculty member, or even an Economics professor from a different institution. Feel free to explore around and be creative with this part.
- **Having at least one part of the newsletter in a format other than written.** For instance, you may cover one of the 3 macro stories with a video; or you may have the student/faculty spotlight as an audio/video interview;
- **One (1) additional content beyond the ones listed above.** Once again, *be creative!*

HOW LONG? The newsletter should have a **minimum of 5** and a **maximum of 10 pages**.

DELIVERY FORMAT: Feel free to choose the best format to deliver your newsletter. Is it going to be a **webpage**? A **PDF** file? An **email**? The choice is yours.

ORGANIZATION: As all students will work in a single group, this is a great opportunity to **divide tasks and collaborate**. Most likely, some of you will be more involved with the **layout**; others, with **curating news** and information; others with **video editing**, and so on. Part of working in teams is focusing on your strengths and learning from your peers' strengths.

Each EC 210 section will assign **two** (2) "Senior editors" (SEs). These two students will be in direct contact with Prof. Santetti, as a way of providing **updates** and **accountability** between all parts involved. SEs will provide bi-weekly updates/reports on how things are going, how the tasks are being distributed, which subjects are being discussed, and so on.

Throughout the semester, we will also have some **in-class time** to work on the newsletter. As your schedules outside of our class may be very different, working on some stuff in class can be beneficial.

GET INSPIRED: One of the best ways to come up with a nice, well-tailored newsletter is to read different ones made by other people! Here are some suggestions:

- *Miscellaneous:* **The morning (NYT)**;
- *Cooking:* **A newsletter (Alison Roman)**;
- *Politics:* **Silver Bulletin (Nate Silver)**;
- *Economics/Politics:* **The 10-point (WSJ)**;
- Explore more on **Substack**.

TIMELINE: We will have some **checkpoints** over the semester to check on the assignment's progress. Specific dates for that will be further discussed in class. On **Dec 12** (this assignment's due date), students will **present** their final product, so we can talk about the overall process together.

→ **Assignment due Dec 12 (Th), before class.**

→ **Points Possible: 50.**

→ **See grading rubric on the next page.**

Have fun!

QUICK RUBRIC:

- **Visuals**. Having a nice title, and a well-rounded layout design to the newsletter: **15** points;
- **Fulfilling the required newsletter content listed on page 1**: **15** points;
- **Acknowledging original sources**. As you get more acquainted with newsletters, you will notice authors provide several links to where they extracting their primary information from. You should do the same: **10** points.
- **Overall participation, organization, and teamwork**: **10 points**.

The first **3** bullet points will be graded based on *collective* work, while the **last** will be evaluated on an *individual* basis.