Objective: Discussion Section is intended to have a better understanding of the concepts, theories and calculations by doing exercises I made. I hope this would let you perform better in the midterms and final.

Requirement: Please try to attend as many lectures and discussions as you can, otherwise you would not learn anything because the materials are interconnected and you’ll find everything much harder once you can not keep up with our pace. Sometimes, I may need you to do some practice questions yourself before coming to my class and I hope you can follow my instruction because I may ask some students to go to show their works on the blackboard. In addition, calculator is also needed on many occasions.
Course Policies:

1. **Webpage**: My personal webpage [http://publish.illinois.edu/zzhangecon/teaching/](http://publish.illinois.edu/zzhangecon/teaching/) is a resource I expect you to use throughout the semester. You will find helpful information, additional material, and announcements. It is also your responsibility to regularly visit the common website at compass2g.illinois.edu where you’ll find discussion board, announcements etc.

2. **Dates**: Exam and Term Paper Due dates are listed above. If you think you can’t make it to any of these four quizzes and exams (including midterm and final) on the scheduled date and time, please let me know by next Thursday (September 4th) and we will arrange a conflict quiz or exam for you. *I won’t accept any request for make-up quizzes or conflict exams after this date (4th September) except emergencies such as serious sickness or bereavement.* Make sure you notify me of the emergencies before a quiz or exam and should you be not able to give me a short notice prior to a quiz or exam, you must bring me adequate documentation of the reasons for missing a quiz or exam thereafter to be sit at a make-up quiz or conflict exam.

3. **Exams**: One midterm and one final make up 55% of your total grades, so your performance in the exams will generally determine your rankings and letter grades.

4. **Grades**: Grades will be given in percentage for exams and paper. Letter grades will be calculated using the weights of components listed above and I won’t be able to know your letter grades until the final has been graded. Normally, the total grades won’t be curved unless your performances in two exams are tragically bad. It usually takes at least one week to get your exams back after the test is held. For example, Midterm is held on Oct 2nd, we will likely return your exams in discussion section in the following week (Oct 9). Keep in mind that this is your only opportunity to get your exams. If you don’t come to the class without asking for a leave, you won’t be able to get your exams in the class unless you come to my office hours and find the exams yourself. You can also ask me to help review your exams if you have any doubt about our grading or want to go over the questions. But please do so within one week since you get the exams and no request would be responded thereafter.

5. **Attendance**: Attendance is required and I expect that you will be in class on time and ready to actively participate. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the handouts, class notes, and course changes from a classmate or webpage. I will not respond to emails asking what you missed.

6. **Exercises and Quizzes**: Exercises will be assigned on a weekly basis and you are encouraged to review them before the exams. Exercises are not going to be graded. Quizzes are used to help you get some credits and totally based on weekly exercises (Usually 10-15 MCs). The lowest grade in 4 quizzes will be dropped.

7. **Term Paper**: You will also find the term paper instructions on the webpage. You are expected to write a report on an article published on mainstream media such as New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, etc. The article has to be
published during the current semester, i.e. after August 25, 2014. Please give me a copy of your article in class on November 13. You’re allowed to change your article but you will have to be held responsible for an improper article if you don’t submit your article on this day. And also, 5 page policy is strictly observed and I won’t read anything beyond this limit. I suggest you put your graphs and tables (if any) into appendices so that you have more space to write your ideas. Remember it is due at the beginning of the class on November 20th (Thursday) any paper submitted after the deadline will be graded as zero.

8. **Email**: Feel free to send me an email. However, because of the nature of this course, I may answer questions about homework and quizzes, materials, term paper and exams through e-mail, you are encouraged to use discussion board on compass 2g to ask these types of questions. In addition, I do not give any information about your grades through e-mail. It is best to come to my office hours to talk to me in person for this.

9. **James Scholar Program**: If you want to enroll into JS program, you need to ask Professor Baer and do all the needed paperwork

10. **Other**: If you are on a sports team, please let me know now. If you can’t attend many of my classes, I will help find you a tutor from Econ Department. Otherwise, it would be hard for you to get good grades in the exams. If you need to take DRES exam, also let me know right after this first class because we need to do additional work to coordinate between TAs and make sure your exam can be graded on time.