**Writing guide for ESP/ECL 212B**

**Organization and argument:**

* Strong papers will move beyond a simple summary of others’ arguments to make a coherent argument (take a concrete position) on the given topic. This position or thesis will be readily apparent in the introduction.
* The remainder of the paper will support the thesis using well-organized logical argument and reference material.

**Audience (tone and level):**

* You should think of your intended audience as similar to that of a general interest (natural and social) science journal, such as *Science* or *PNAS.* This does not mean that the essay should be formatted like a research article but rather that your language should be both formal and accessible to a broad audience including economists and natural scientists.

**Tailoring the question:**

* You are encouraged to tailor the question to your particular research or career interests.
* Your chosen version of the question to be addressed should be apparent in your introduction.
* If you have questions about whether you’re ranging too far afield, you are welcome to check with me.
* Regardless of the form of the question you tackle, the essay should contain significant analytical content pertaining to the policy issues involved.

**Additional details:**

* Make sure to move beyond the provided references for a given topic.
* Late assignments will be accepted up until 24 hours past the time due and will incur a penalty of one-letter grade.
* Please use 1.5 spacing and print on both sides of the page.
* Both abbreviated within-text citations (e.g. parenthetical citations) and a list of full citations at the end of the essay (“References”) are required. To save space, the “References” section may begin right after your last paragraph (rather than on a new page). Your citations and reference list should be formatted formally but the particular style is up to you.
* Essays are expected to be largely free of editorial problems including spelling, grammar and sentence mechanics.