Instructions for Referee Reports

Economics 716

Fall 2016

As stated on the syllabus, one requirement for this course is to write two “referee reports.” These notes are to provide more details on this assignment.

**Due Dates.** The first report is due Monday October 3, the second five weeks later on Monday November 7.

**Selection of Papers.** You can write your report on any paper on the reading list or another paper on these topics. If you wish to do a paper not on the reading list, check with me first to make sure it’s acceptable. If you choose a paper from the reading list, you don’t have to check with me on it, but I’d strongly recommend it.

**How to write the report.** Ideally, you’ll understand essentially every line of the papers you write your reports on. I suggest working through the details of the proofs to the maximum extent possible.

**What should be in the report?** It’s not practical for you to tell me everything you’ve learned about each paper without rewriting the entire paper. Instead, the report should be a summary of what you’ve learned. It should include a description of the model, a summary of the main results, a brief discussion of why the results are of interest, and proof sketches for the main theorems. The description of the model should be precise, but can omit details that aren’t relevant for the rest of your report. The summary of results, again, can omit some details if these are not important. The proof sketches should not go through every step of the proof, but should be detailed enough that the main ideas involved are clear.

To give you some idea of the level of detail I’m looking for, I expect that most reports would be two to five pages. This is not a length requirement, just a guideline.