

Handout on Paper #2

Students will choose *any* Latin American country (though not the same one used for Paper #1) and one of the following positions in the international financial institutions (IFIs):

I. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

II. World Bank (WB)/Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

The IMF focuses on issues of economic reform and macroeconomic stability. Students interested in the more economic dimensions of development may be interested in pursuing this position. The WB and the IDB, focus on a broader set of questions involving issues ranging from democratic governance to poverty.

Once the student has selected a position, they must then select *one* among the following portfolios:

IMF: monetary and financial reform, trade and commercial policy, emergency assistance and conditionality, debt relief, counter-money laundering and counterfeit (including financial dimensions of terrorism).

WB/IDB: poverty alleviation, democratic governance and anti-corruption, competitiveness and entrepreneurship support, infrastructure and technology development, agriculture and food, energy and environment.

Research

Once the country, position, and portfolio area are selected, the student must research the background on the policy area using official resources available on the webpages of the IFIs. These and other IFIs and non-governmental organizations with operations in Latin America are listed off of the links page available on the course webpage: (<http://people.carleton.edu/~amontero/lalinks.htm>)

At the same time, the student must examine how these policies have been implemented in the selected country. This will not only require examination of background materials on the webpages of the IFIs but on country pages. The LANIC database (available on the links and course pages) lists official resources for each Latin American country. Reading ability in Spanish or Portuguese will limit how extensively these resources may be used.

Once primary and policy sources have been exhausted, the student is to gather abundant secondary *scholarly* sources on the policy area. This will require extensive use of databases such as Academic Search Premier, Proquest, PAIS, EconLit, and J-Stor. A search for books and dissertations (available from Proquest Dissertation Abstracts) must also occur at this point.

Analytical Focus

Each student will examine progress in the chosen policy *from the perspective of the IFI or the government of the selected country* and identify specific areas that are in need of further attention. This focus will be the basis for preparation of an 8-10 page policy-position paper.

Policy-position papers are common in the world of public policy-making, think tanks, and academic institutions. The purpose of a policy-position paper is to (a) identify a current problem in need of correction, (b) examine choices of policy correctives and their implications, (c) select a specific policy choice or a mixture and *propose* a corrective based on this choice. The actor asked to carry out the policy may be the IFI alone, the country state, or both entities.

The successful completion of a policy-position paper requires analysis of the interactions between IFI and government public policy-making, detailed knowledge of the selected country (especially its official and non-governmental structures and their history), and exhaustive research for background and empirical data to use in policy analysis.

Evaluation

This assignment intends to give students a more in-depth understanding of a major issue in the context of a single Latin American country. The assignment also encourages students to employ historical as well as contemporary data in support of their own analysis of policy choices.

The highest quality papers on this assignment will fulfill *all* of the following tasks:

- (1) Provide extensive research support for all points of analysis raised in the paper. A bibliography and citations of sources following the required format are *necessary*.
- (2) The intensive use of both qualitative and quantitative data to support assessment of policy choices, the current situation, and the implications of mixing different policy choices. Use of quantitative data is *required*, though this does not have to take the form of formal statistical analysis. All charts, tables, and figures may be appended to the end of the paper and will not count towards the page limits.
- (3) The proposal of a new policy or a policy corrective must be clear and forcefully stated. It must also be backed up with a convincing amount of argument based on the lack of or inadequacy of available alternatives.

Support and Schedule

Since this paper will require a sustained period of light research, students are obliged to begin work on this project *immediately* (end of 4th week). Prof. Montero will meet with individual students during office hours to answer questions and provide ideas.

DUE: TUESDAY, November 18, 5 P.M. AS A SINGLE PDF FILE IN EACH STUDENT'S HAND-IN FOLDER ON THE COURSES DIRECTORY