

# EC 3250: Project Specifications

Spring 2025

## 1 General Information

You will choose an industry that you like and analyze it in the context of its market, customers, and strategy. You will use the tools we accrue throughout the semester in order to write about the market structure of the industry, products provided, pricing, and comparison to a perfectly competitive or monopoly market.

Choose any subject that you find interesting. Regardless of your area of interest, the first key to doing a good project involves choosing a topic that you like. Spend some time carefully selecting something. It should be an industry or product that you really like, and can find information about. If that doesn't seem to be working, just pick a topic. Start early.

If you can't think of anything, come talk to me about it. By April 4 turn in a project proposal, which includes brief explanations of 1) what industry you are analyzing, 2) some preliminary ideas about it, 3) why it's interesting, 4) some intuition about what you will be able to do with the project. This proposal will be worth 5 points of your final project grade. No late proposals accepted.

## 2 Presentation

35 points on your final project grade will be a 5-7 minute presentation during the final week of class. You should use visual aids through Powerpoint slides or a poster. We will have discussion among your classmates at the conclusion of the presentation.

## 3 Format

Your completed project must be typed and neatly presented. This will be done in the form of a 7-10 page (12 font, double spaced, tables and graphs are encouraged, but don't count toward the pages) paper. It must be well-written. Do not simply list answers. If you think that you may have trouble with this, you are encouraged to seek out help at the writing center. Your final grade will be based on both the quality of your economic analysis and the overall presentation.

### **3.1 Introduction**

Describe your paper and give a brief overview of the industry you chose, why you chose it, and what you will discuss in the paper.

### **3.2 Industry Background**

This is where you will give a thorough description of the industry you chose, including number of firms, products they produce, etc. I want to know about the industry and why it's interesting.

### **3.3 Competition, Pricing, and Regulation**

Explain how the industry competes among firms. You can discuss whether they use price competition or quantity competition. Is the price much higher than you would expect from perfect competition? Monopoly? Is there regulation in the industry? Use your IO tools to explain how competition works in the industry.

### **3.4 Discussion of Problems**

Discuss potential issues with the industry. If you could regulate it would you change it? How?

### **3.5 Conclusion**

Bring together all of your analysis in a coherent end.

### **3.6 Tables and Graphs**

Tables, Graphs, and Figures are a great way to reinforce your points and get the data across. These pages will not go toward your page count, but will improve your grade if done well.

## **Final Notes**

You must carefully cite sources and credit any references that you use. Good luck, help each other, and ask for help from me as you need it.