**PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS**

**Country Profile Assignment:**

**Phase 1: Team-Based**

Each team will:

1. Choose a country (see your team’s geographical area at the end of this sheet) and do a bit of background research. (Location, main economic activities, etc.)
2. Find data for 2000 – 2010 for that country’s
   1. Real GDP (GDP constant 2000 US$)
   2. Growth rate of real GDP (GDP growth (annual %))
   3. Real GDP per capita (GDP per capita, constant 2000 US$)
   4. Growth rate of real GDP per capita (GDP per capita growth (annual %))
   5. Population (Population, total)
   6. Population growth rate (Population growth (annual %))
   7. Unemployment rate (Unemployment, total (% of total labor force))
   8. Inflation rate (Inflation, consumer prices (annual %))

CUSTOMIZE AS NEEDED

1. CHART each of these variables over time (2000-2010) using Excel. Put time on the horizontal axis.

**Make a 10 slide Powerpoint:**

1. Country name and map
2. Current situation: GDP, per capita income, GDP growth rate, population
3. Real GDP over time (chart)
4. Real GDP per capita over time (chart)
5. Growth rate of Real GDP over time (chart)
6. Growth rate of Real GDP per capita over time (chart)
7. Population over time (chart)
8. Population growth rate over time (chart)
9. Unemployment rate over time (chart)
10. Inflation rate over time (chart)

Slide shows will be presented in class on [due date]. Each team will have about 10 (adjust as necessary to accommodate all of your groups) minutes to present and answer questions. Your presentations should include a clear description of what each slide illustrates with some basic interpretation. For example, when presenting Slide 3, which contains Real GDP over time, make sure to describe what is on each axis and how GDP has fluctuated over the time period you are showing. Identify recessions and periods of economic growth.

Each team will receive a grade for the presentation, with individual adjustments for participation. This will be your HW #3 grade. (or whatever your assessment strategy is…)

**Good sources:**

CIA World Factbook:

This is a great general resource to get you started and to find information about your country’s current economic situation.

World dataBank (databank.worldbank.org):

You will need to use the World databank to get the information about how your country’s economic variables have changed over time.

**Countries to be selected as follows:** (Make sure you can find data for the country you pick.)

Team 1: Africa

Team 2: Asia / Pacific

Team 3: Western Europe

Team 4: Eastern Europe / Former Soviet Union

Team 5: North America

Team 6: South America

Team 7: Middle East / North Africa

Team 8: Central America

Adjust as needed for your class structure.

**Phase 2: Individual Writing Assignment**

Based on your team’s research into a country, each student will submit a two-page written assignment on **one** of the following topics. This part of the assignment should be completed INDIVIDUALLY. Your written assignment is due on [due date] and will be used as your Homework #4 grade.

1. Discuss the relationship between GDP, GDP per capita and population growth rate. Start with your hypothesis about what you expect this relationship to be, and why. Include and describe a ten-year chart of each of these variables. Comment on whether your country’s data supports your hypothesis.
2. Discuss the relationship between the unemployment rate and the rate of economic growth. Start with your hypothesis about what you expect this relationship to be, and why. Then include ten year charts of each of the variables. Comment on whether your country’s data supports your hypothesis.
3. Discuss the relationship between inflation and the rate of economic growth. Start with your hypothesis about what you expect this relationship to be, and why. Include and describe ten-year charts of each of the variables. Comment on whether your country’s data supports your hypothesis.

Note: These are easily adjustable to include the variables and relationships that you are interested in having students explore.