

NYU Stern 2015 Economic Growth Competition

In each of the three sections of the spring 2015 Global Economy course, students, working in teams, will develop a *virtual* presentation that analyzes the current and future growth prospects of a target country. The best presentation from each section—as judged by your peers and your professor—will be eligible to compete in the *Growth Competition*.

Key Dates

Thursday, April 2 (6pm):	Presentation due
Tuesday, April 14 (6pm):	Peer Evaluation due
Wednesday, April 29 (4:30pm-5:50pm):	Economic Growth Competition (Room M1-70)

The Team

A team is made up of 5–6 students. Students should form teams and inform the professor *before* the second class meeting on Thursday, February 5. Students who have not joined a team by that time will be assigned to one by the professor. Each team will elect a captain, who will be responsible for coordinating the team. Once a team is formed, its composition will remain unchanged for the semester.

The Presentation

Each team will be randomly assigned its target country on Thursday, February 5. Throughout the semester, teams will analyze various aspects of their country's economy as parts of the required course problem sets.

The project objective is to advise the senior management of a major multinational services firm (such as, but not limited to, a utility, a transport firm, or a bank) whether to make a large, irreversible investment in the assigned country. This sunk-cost investment will be attractive only if the market size grows sufficiently over 25 years. The team's final presentation will synthesize the results of their findings and discuss the leading obstacles or risks to sustained economic growth in the country. While you have the opportunity to address a range of issues that you judge important, each presentation must include a 25-year GDP forecast based on the Solow model of economic growth. The presentation also should identify and explain key institutional changes that policymakers could implement to make the country substantially more attractive as a place to invest.

The presentation is *virtual*: The presentation consists of a Powerpoint slide presentation (maximum 10 slides) and an explanatory write-up of no more than 5 pages. It should take no more than 15 minutes to view the presentation. Presentations will be submitted by 6pm on Thursday, April 2.

To help guide you, the best group projects from the spring 2014 class are available [here](#). While these projects responded to a different question, they exemplify the format and quality that we expect.

The Countries

This year's target countries are: Brazil, Chile, China, France, Greece, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Spain, and Thailand.

Teams will be randomly assigned to countries during the second class meeting. No more than 2 teams in each section will work on the same country.

Evaluation

The presentations will be evaluated by the professor, the teaching assistant and other students enrolled in the course. After the presentations are submitted, each student will be assigned 4 presentations from other teams in their section to evaluate. After viewing their classmates' presentations (slides and write-ups), students will complete a brief online survey, assessing each presentation based on the following criteria:

1. Presentation organization (brevity, clarity and communication)
2. Focus and subject knowledge
3. Analysis
4. Recommendations and conclusions

Each student must complete the 4 online surveys by 6pm on Tuesday, April 14. Doing so is an important aspect of course participation.

Instructors will grade each presentation using the same criteria. Each member of the team will receive the same project grade, which will constitute 20% of the final course grade.

The Competition

In each of the three sections, the team with the top virtual presentation will be eligible to compete for the *Henry Kaufman Prize for Economic Analysis at Stern*. The competition will take place in a forum open to all MBA students on Wednesday, April 29, between 4:30pm and 5:50pm in room M1-70. The competition will be judged by a small panel of leading economists, who will have previously viewed each team's presentation. During the competition, each team will be given 20 minutes to respond to questions from the panel. The panel will select the best presentation and award the *Kaufman Prize* to that team. We expect that the prize winners will enjoy a lunch with Dr. Kaufman and the judges (at a date to be determined). The presentations of the participating teams will be made available on the website of the NYU Stern Center for Global Economy and Business.

Note: The team presentation is a course requirement, but participation in the competition is optional. If a team chooses not to participate in the competition, it will have no impact on the team members' grades. If the leading eligible team in a section opts out of the competition, the next ranking team in that section will be invited to participate.