

# ECON 480 Project

## Spring 2012

### **Project 2012: Piracy.**

#### **How to get started?**

- **Step 1:** Pick a group as well as a sub-topic from the list in the last page (provided it has not been chosen by another group yet).
- **Step 2:** Collect information on the market of interest.
- **Step 3:** Analyze the effect of piracy.
- **Step 4:** Analyze the effect of anti-piracy policies and propose solutions.

Note that Internet and USC libraries are a good start to collect information.

Use these steps as guidelines. There may be some specific conditions in some markets.

In-class presentations will report findings. Each group of students must then submit a written report taking into account the previous findings as well as any relevant comments made during the presentation.

#### **Prerequisites**

The objective of the final project is to use the knowledge presented in class to evaluate a market component. The main topic is different every year. This evaluation requires

- A good understanding of the concepts reviewed in class
- Some knowledge of statistics to compute basic indicators and perhaps run a regression

Most importantly, students must identify the way to proceed to collect information and ask the relevant questions to come up with an assessment.

#### **Deadlines, report and in-class discussions:**

- You must form a group of 5 students and select a sub-topic by February 10, 2012. Send me an e-mail by that date with the names of the 5 students and a list of 3 sub-topics in order of preference. I will automatically assign you to a group and a sub-topic if you fail to respond by that date.
- Each group will present preliminary findings towards the end of the semester. The schedule will be decided later and posted on the web.
- The final report is due on April 25, 2012.

The report must not exceed 10 pages printed in 12 point-type double-spaced.

**Grading:**

Both the report and the presentation will count toward the grade. All students in a group are required to participate in the presentation.

**Sub-topics: we will have at most 2 groups per topic**

Music piracy

Software piracy

Open source software and piracy

Games piracy

Movies piracy

Piracy and the internet