General outline of an econometrics research paper

1. Introduction
   - Problem statement and/or motivation for the research
   - Objectives
   - A summary of methods used
   - Brief description of results
   - at the end of the intro, a road map to the following sections.
Theory
economic theory (including a formal model if necessary or useful), and a discussion of the relevant literature to support your econometric model and estimation methods.

Data and estimation
This section should clearly describe your data and estimation methods using verbal descriptions, tables, graphs, and formal modelling. The goal is for the reader to be able to reconstruct exactly what you did, from data collection all the way through your final estimation.

Notes about data
- Include a table of data descriptions. The data descriptions table should include clear source information so that the reader could go and get the exact original data themselves and transform it exactly as you did (This table is REQUIRED for the paper in this class).
- Also include a table of summary statistics of all data used (This table is also REQUIRED for the paper in this class).
- Relevant graphs that can help the reader visualize the data.
- Discussion of data weaknesses and transformations you did for your model.
- variable names: There is always a balancing act when naming variables: use variable names that are as descriptive as possible, but not too long to make their use too cumbersome. If you have just a few variables, then longer (more complete) variable names are appropriate. If you are using a lot of variables, then shorter names are probably better. In either case clear descriptions of the data must be included in the data description table.

Notes about estimation methods
- Be sure to motivate the structure and content of your econometric model. Ideally, the econometric model, including structure and content (the variables you use) would follow directly and clearly from the economic theory. Build this bridge between theory and empirics carefully and as completely as possible.
- Be clear about the process by which you arrived at the final estimated and reported model(s) and results, specifically, discuss the estimation issues you had to address and the specification test results that lead to the final model(s).

Results and Discussion
- There should be a discussion of all the important contents of your estimation results, and clear references in your text relating to your tables of results. That is, the reader should be able to easily recognize what part of your tabulated results you are referring to in the text.
- You need not discuss every element of your regression results, but the report of your regression results should be relatively complete. It should generally include parameter estimates, standard errors and/or t-stats, and some measure of goodness of fit for the regression. Other info should of course be included as necessary.
- Do NOT include raw regression output from GaussX or any other software with your paper, even as an appendix.