ECONOMICS 145 Economic Research Methods

Spring 2010

Assignment 3 Literature Review Assignment

Due Date: 3/4/2010

Instructions:

1. Some of you are already reading literature. If you are doing this, you probably know how
time-consuming it is. Therefore, you should begin summarizing the papers you’ve read. You will
have a few weeks to finish your literature review.

2. Your literature review should consist of at least 5 different scholarly articles. For some of you,
it may make sense to focus on the two or three articles that are most relevant to your research
topic. Nevertheless, there will be many others following the same theme so you should include
these as well.

3. Notice that this literature review will be a part of your paper. As a result, you should try to use
the literature review to frame your own research paper. In other words, bear in mind these
questions: what are the major consensus and disputes in existing literature? How does my
research topic relate to earlier studies? In what way is my paper different/innovative from earlier
studies? The literature review should serve the purpose of advancing your own argument.

4. Before you start writing the literature review, you may want to begin by taking notes for each
paper according the guidelines in the lecture.

5. Remember that a series of paper summaries is NOT a literature review. If you do this you will
not get credit for the assignment. Instead, you should synthesize what has been done before and
what are the major disputes, differences, and similarities.