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During the first semester, the topic I chose is about international trade, and I mainly focused on import price index. Through the regression test, import price index is closely correlated with producer price index, which somehow shows the economic condition of the United States. I also summarize the main point of an article demonstrating the impact of strong dollar and connecting it with the imports and exports of the country. For the second semester, I turned my topics about import price index to the GDP of United States. The main point in my section is how the coronavirus influence the GDP and what is the potential risks it brings about.

For the two semesters study, I read more articles that helps me build my topics, and gain knowledge from those articles. It also helps me utilize the knowledge I learned before I took this course. With the presentation my classmates did in the class, there is more ways of thinking about the information and how to correlate them with other facts provided by government. I only pay attention to the surface of the information when doing the research, and did not go deep into the topic, discovering what is behind the data. In addition to the new ways of looking at the data, I also picked up the knowledge I already learned.

I have only had a simple understanding of the theories and definitions written in the textbook. Unlike the other courses that focus on theories and some forecasting based on textbooks examples, this course offers opportunities of using real world data to do the forecasting, which is more challenging and more complicated. We are free to choose topics that we are interested in, and discover relationships between the topic and other information, and attempting to find out correlations between different data set. For example, when I was in the money and banking class, I learned that the federal reserve will monitor the federal funds rate to influence the investment and consumption in order to stabilize the economy of the country, but that is only the theory, and I will probably forget it after the exam. However, what I learned in the money and banking can be used for the Practicum class which enhance my memory and understand why we need to learn the theory first. We combined the knowledge we have already learned with real world data, which broadened my horizon about the economy.

The feature I don't like for this course is the two semester's preparation. We actually did a lot of research at the first semester, and at the second semester, almost all the students are graduating or didn't take this course again. New students for the course is great, but when people join in the second semester only, it is hard for students to reuse the research that people did for the first semester. Unfortunately, due to the departure of a large number of students, that information cannot be fully utilized. Some opinions are really unique and interesting, and will help our team for the competition.