Paper Topics for Econ 424 Industrial Organization

1) Famous antitrust cases—
   a) US Steel
   b) Standard Oil
   c) tobacco
   d) Alcoa
   e) IBM
   f) Microsoft
   g) Philadelphia electric conspiracy
   h) ADM price conspiracy

2) Mergers / merger movements / specific mergers
   a) AOL/Time-Warner
   b) WorldCom/MCI
   c) Bell Atlantic/Nynex/GTE
   d) Mercedes/Chrysler

3) Executive compensation
   a) Expensing stock options
   b) Risk aversion and stock option compensation
   c) accounting fraud and stock options

4) Property rights
   a) patents and copyrights
   b) FDA / drug patents and approval
   c) types of patents approved referenced by industry
   d) patents v. industrial secrets /
   e) industrial spying and sabotage
   f) counterfeiting

5) Regulation
   a) deregulation in telecomm, nat gas, trucking, airlines /
   b) regulation in medicine, services, etc.
   c) why have it? does it work?
   d) truth in advertising

6) Entertainment Industry:
   a) Movies, production and distribution
   b) Ticket sales and profits: data on ticket sales weekly—measure the shape of the earnings profile.
   c) cable TV /
   d) laws on joint ownership of production and distribution

7) Transportation
   a) Airlines: hub and spoke organization / international partnering / reservation systems
   b) Bankruptcy and terrorism
   c) Fast trains

8) Sports: college or pro’s
   a) TV
   b) monopsonizing players salaries
   c) Olympic scandal(s)

9) Auto dealing
   a) state laws
   b) distribution systems esp. foreign cars
   c) Merger effects on franchises
   d) Honda bribery scandal

10) Liquor distribution and regulation

11) Sex / prostitution / porn

12) Bi-language adaptation in the construction industry
   a) Survey local construction crews that use Mexican workers (30+ observations) – could also survey manufacturing firms that employ Mexicans.
   b) Get name of company and construction project
   c) Find out who on the chain of command speaks both English and Spanish. Find out which is that person’s native language.

13) Tort Reform
   a) Medical malpractice insurance
   b) Tort liability judgements by state and region.

14) Regulation of credit markets
   a) Usury laws
   b) Personal bankruptcy

15) The economics of religion
   a) Catholic church scandals
   b) Homosexual Episcopalian bishops
   c) Splintering of the Baptists
   d) Growth of religion
   e) Size distribution of churches
   f) Religious persecution

16) Steel quotas

17) Economics of Education
   a) tuition and funding in the ACC
   b) education quality