Suggestions for Reproducibility Memo:

The goal of the memo is to communicate feedback on the entire research project to the authoring student. One aspect of this is how readily you were able to reproduce the results, but please give thought to the work as a whole. The follow points may help guide your evaluation:

1. Ease at which you were able to understand the contents of the replication dataset: was there sufficient documentation? Were the files intuitively named and did the directories tree structure seem sensible? How easy was it to get started?
2. Did the code run as you expected? Where did you run into problem or need to debug? Were the results in the papers (figures, tables, calculations) regenerated?
3. What comments or suggestions do you have on improving the presentation of the work and its communication? Recall we are following King's "Publication, Publication" and King, Tomz, and Wittenberg's "Making the Most of Statistical Analyses: Improving Interpretation and Presentation" regarding style (both on courseworks).
4. Are there improvements that can be made to the statistical analysis that would help this become a better paper? How might the two suggestions from "Publication, Publication" be implemented? That is, without changing the original assumptions are there improvements such as missing data, contradictory information, etc. that would change the outcome? And is there an improvement one (or a very small number of improvements) that would change the results? The article suggests changing the way the author dealt with missing data, selection bias, omitted variable bias, the model specification, differential item functioning, the functional form, etc., adding control variables or better measures, extending the time series and conducting out-of-sample tests, applying a better statistical model, or other aspects that are relevant to the problem being replicated. The student will not have done this part of the project yet, so your discussion should be along the lines of suggestions for their future work.

Please also bear in mind that the goal of the exercise is not merely to produce better science but to build a community around these research problems. Because of this a respectful supportive approach is the right way to go, rather than an attack on another student's work

As always if you have questions please feel free to contact me.