ECON 2901B
Guided Studies in Current Economic Problems I
Course Outline

ECON 2901 is divided into two parts. The first part contains several workshops that focus on research methodology, use of economic data, writing skills, and presentation techniques. The second part involves lectures (conducted in English), classroom discussion, and presentation of research projects. With this format, students are expected not only to gain basic knowledge in the design of an appropriate research project but also to improve their public speaking and overall writing abilities.

Part 1: STOT Workshops (20%)

(i)   To encourage students to attend the STOT workshops, attendance is counted as a part of the course assessment. A total of 3 marks are assigned to the student's attendance.

(ii)   To encourage students to better understand the materials covered in the STOT workshops, assignments are given and graded. A total of 17 marks are allocated to the STOT-workshops assignments

Week 2 & 3:   Research Methodology & Introduction on Poster Presentation (January 18 & 25; ELB LT2)
Week 6 & 7:   English Oral Skill Practice (February 15 & 22)
Week 10 & 11: English Writing Skill Practice (March 15 & 22)

Part 2: Research Project (80%)

Formal Meeting Schedule
Week 12, 13 & 14: Presentation & Discussion (March 29, April 5 & 12; ELB LT2)
Week 15: Poster Presentation (April 19; ELB Lobby)

Assessment

Attendance and participation	15 marks
Proposal Presentation	5 marks
Poster Presentation	20 marks
Final Report	40 marks

Group Formation
Since the research is intended to be a group project, a group of 3 – 4 has to be formed. The group list with a contact person specified is to be submitted by **18 January** via email to me. Those cannot form or join any group will be assigned after the deadline.

Research Proposal
Each group has to present your research proposal to me for comments/discussion right after the Chinese New Year holiday. A timeslot will be assigned later by me.

Presentation and Discussion
As poster presentations are to be conducted, each group member has to prepare to serve as both presenter and discussant.

Paper
10 pages with reasonable spacing and font size for the main content is to be submitted on **26 April at 2pm**. Both hardcopy and softcopy of the paper are required.

All STOT sections should follow strictly with this course assessment scheme. The range of grade distributions for the students' performance in each section should have reasonable variations. Moreover, the grade distribution should be in line with the guidelines set forth by the Registration and Examination Section.

Blackboard
Announcements will be posted there from time to time. Do check regularly.