

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
ECON 4901E Guided Studies in Current Economic Problems II
Term 1, 2017-2018
Course Outline

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1. Course Description and Objectives

ECON4901E is a student-oriented course and it aims to introduce the basic skills of conducting economic research and developing a student's ability on the analysis of economic problems. The course is divided into two parts. The first part contains two workshops that focus on research methodology and use of economic data. 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.

2. Class Schedule

Date	Time	Venue	Content
4 September (Mon)	2:30pm – 4:15pm	ELB 204	Introduction
15 September (Fri)	6:30pm – 8:15pm	ELB LT1	Research methodology (Lecture)
22 September (Fri)	6:30pm – 8:15pm	ELB 916	Research methodology (Lab)
25 September (Mon)	2:30pm – 4:15pm	ELB 204	Consultation
2 October (Mon)	No consultation (Public Holiday: The day following National Day)		
9 October (Mon)	2:30pm – 4:15pm	ELB 204	Consultation
16 October (Mon)	2:30pm – 4:15pm	ELB 204	Consultation
23 October (Mon)	2:30pm – 4:15pm	ELB 204	Consultation
30 October (Mon)	2:30pm – 4:15pm	ELB 204	Consultation
6 November (Mon)	2:30pm – 4:15pm	ELB 204	Consultation
13 November (Mon)	2:30pm – 4:15pm	ELB 204	Presentation and Discussion
20 November (Mon)	2:30pm – 4:15pm	ELB 204	Presentation and Discussion
27 November (Mon)	2:30pm – 4:15pm	ELB 204	Presentation and Discussion

3. Assessment

Part I. STOT Workshops (20%)

Attendance	4%
Assignments	16%

Part II. Research Project (80%)

Class attendance	5%
Class participation	5%
Consultation participation	5%
Presentation	25%
Paper	40%
Total	100%

Students are advised to check the new CUHK Blackboard System regularly.

3.1 Attendance and Class Participation

All students are required to attend all the final presentations. Students are encouraged to participate actively in class discussions. Each student will be assigned one presentation to discuss.

3.2 Consultation Participation

Each consultation session will be 20 minutes and the schedules will be posted in the Discussion Board at the CUHK Blackboard system. Each student must attend a minimum of two consultation sessions, and is limited to a maximum of four consultation sessions. Students should set up the two compulsory consultations before 22 September, with the first consultation being scheduled on or before 16 October and the second consultation on or before 6 November. For consultation sessions other than the compulsory ones, students should sign up before 5pm the day before the consultation. Extra appointments can be scheduled upon request only if all the available consultation sessions are signed up. However, students need to email the instructor at least three days in advance to request an extra appointment.

3.3 Presentation

The schedule and the order of the presentation will be determined in the first class. Each presentation will be no more than 20 minutes in length, followed by a 5-minute discussion and a 5-minute Q&A. The presenter must upload a presentation draft to the Discussion Board at least 48 hours before the presentation, and upload the final presentation slides to the Discussion Board immediately after the presentation.

3.4 Final paper

The final paper should be between 10 and 20 pages in length (excluding tables, figures, and references). To ensure consistency in the format, the main text of the paper should comply with the following format:

Font: Times New Roman
Font size: 12 point
Margin: 1 inch all around
Spacing: 0pt before, 0pt after, double line spacing

The deadline for the final paper is 6:pm on 11 December 2017 (Monday). Students are required to submit both hardcopy and softcopy (via VeriGuide) of their paper to the instructor. Late submission will have 20% of the mark deducted per 24 hour period or proportion to a 24 hour period that it is late. A paper submitted more than 4 days (96 hours) after the due time will receive a zero mark.

4. Academic Honesty

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed [declaration](#) that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign on the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.