

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 4 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 16 marks are allocated to the STOT-workshops assignments

Week 2 & 3: Research Methodology & Introduction on Poster Presentation (January 17 & 24; ELB LT2)

Week 7: Chinese New Year

Week 8 & 9: English Oral Skill Practice (February 28 & March 7; time & venue TBA)

Week 10 & 11: English Writing Skill Practice (March 14 & 21; time & venue TBA)

Part 2: Research Project (80%)

Formal Class Meeting Schedule

Week 13, 14 & 15: Presentation & Discussion (April 4, 11 & 18; ELB 306)

Poster Presentation (April 23; 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 **17 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 after Week 3. 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.

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.

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.