

Econ 2901B Guided Studies in Current Economic Problems I
2018 – 2019 Term 2
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Instructor: Yan, Jin

Office hours: by appointment

Office: 903 Esther Lee Building

Email: jyan@cuhk.edu.hk

Lectures: Wednesday 9:30am-11:15am, ELB_LT2

Course Webpage: Access through CUSIS

Course Description and Objectives:

The course consists of two components. The first component contains several workshops that focus on essential skills in research, report writing, and presentation. In the second part of the course, students are required to search and discuss articles on current economic problems under the intensive guidance of the instructor.

Students are expected not only to gain basic knowledge in the design of an appropriate research project in economics but also to improve their public speaking and overall writing abilities.

Requirements:

Part I (STOT workshops, 20%): Attendance (3%), Workshop Assignments (17%).

Part II (Research project, 80%): Participation (15%), Class Presentation (20%), Poster Presentation (15%), Final Report (30%).

- Participation will be graded based on attendance and contribution to the class and group consultation sessions. Workshop and lecture attendances are mandatory. Please notify the instructor in advance or give the instructor a note afterward for any medical emergency, religious holiday, field trip and/or athletic contest, which are the only valid excuses for an absence. In addition, courtesy is expected in classroom. In particular, you should refrain from chitchatting, making loud noises, or playing with electronic devices during lectures. You can also lose participation points if your behavior becomes disruptive to the class.

- Group Project: You will form groups of 4-5 students for a research project. Group formation will be done before the third week of class. The final paper should have no more than 15 pages (excluding graphs and tables), and should be double-spaced with font size 12. All references (including your textbooks and web references) you have used and cited in the paper should be included. To list your references, you are required to follow one of the styles: American Economic Review or Journal of Economic Literature.

Honesty in Academic Work:

Please visit the following website for details of university policy on Honesty in Academic Work: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

Each assignment must be submitted together with a **signed declaration** of originality.

Course Schedule:

The course schedule is subject to changes as the semester proceeds.

Week	Wed	Topic	Location	Note
1	Jan 9	Introduction	ELB_LT2	Group assignment starts
2	Jan 16	STOT Workshop: Research Methodology	ELB_LT2	Group assignment ends
3	Jan 23	Individual Group Meetings	ELB_903	
4	Jan 30	Individual Group Meetings	ELB_903	
5	Feb 6	Holiday		Chinese New Year
6	Feb 13	Individual Group Meetings	ELB_903	
7	Feb 20	Individual Group Meetings	ELB_903	
8	Feb 27	STOT Workshop: Presentation Skill Practice		
9	Mar 6	STOT Workshop: Presentation Skill Practice		
10	Mar 13	STOT Workshop: Writing Skill Practice		
11	Mar 20	STOT Workshop: Writing Skill Practice		
12	Mar 27	TBD		
13	Apr 3	Presentation & Discussion	ELB_LT2	15-min presentation for each group, followed with a 5-min discussion
14	Apr 10	Presentation & Discussion	ELB_LT2	15-min presentation for each group, followed with a 5-min discussion
14	Apr 13 (Saturday)	Poster Presentation	ELB Lobby	
15	Apr 17	Presentation & Discussion	ELB_LT2	15-min presentation for each group, followed with a 5-min discussion