

Department of Economics
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

ECON1220B Contemporary Economic Thinking (2020-21 Term 2)

<https://cuhk.zoom.us/j/94209274749?pwd=aHc5T0FIdXJZWWRvemFQeThwTXJMQT09>

Meeting ID: 942 0927 4749

Passcode: 473364

Instructor: Prof. Kwong Kai Sun, Sunny

Office/Email: ELB935, kaisunkwong@cuhk.edu.hk

Class Times: Monday 12:30pm – 3:30pm

Classroom: Sino LT2 (if required)

Teaching Assistant: Mr. Lo Pok Ho

Course Description

This course mainly explores the way contemporary economists analyze current social problems/issues. Students will be exposed to the fundamental theories and principles of the economic science. These theories and principles will then be used to analyze and understand contemporary economic issues. No prior knowledge of economics is assumed. Intuitive reasoning is used throughout, with little involvement of mathematics.

This course is designed for elective students who are not majoring or minoring in economics.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, the student should:

- 1) Understand intuitively the basic principles and concepts of economics.
- 2) Be able to use the economics perspective to understand current affairs.
- 3) Be able to apply economic logic to analyzing contemporary economic issues.

References

Mankiw, Gregory (2017), Principles of Economics (8th edition), Cengage Learning

Pindyck, Robert and Daniel Rubinfeld (2012), Microeconomics (8th edition), Pearson.

Assessment Scheme

In-class discussion (10%)

Mid-term exam (40%)

Final exam (50%)

Grade Descriptors

A	Outstanding performance in all aspects and on all learning outcomes Demonstrates superior understanding of course materials Far exceeds expectations for students at this level of study
A-	Outstanding performance in most aspects and almost all learning outcomes Demonstrates superior understanding of most course materials Exceeds expectations for students at this level of study
B+	Substantial performance in all/most learning outcomes
B	Substantial understanding of all/most/substantial part of course materials
B-	Meets expectations for students at this level of study
C+	Satisfactory performance in all/most learning outcomes
C	Satisfactory understanding of all/most/substantial part of course materials
C-	Slightly below expectations for students at this level of study
D+	Barely satisfactory performance in all/most learning outcomes
D	Barely satisfactory understanding of all/most course materials Significantly below expectations for students at this level of study
F	Far below expectations for students at this level of study Failure to meet essential requirements of this course

Class Schedule

All classes conducted via Zoom unless otherwise notified. Exams may be carried out in classroom if allowed by University.

Link:

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Week	Topics
Jan 11	Tradeoffs
Jan 18	Economic Behaviors
Jan 25	Price Determination
Feb 1	Advantages of the Market
Feb 8	Limits of the market
Feb 22	Can the Market be applied to everything?
Mar 1	Mid-Term Exam (March 2)
Mar 8	Making people work
Mar 15	Left or Right
Mar 22	What drives stock prices?

Apr 12	Investment basics
Apr 19	Current Affairs
To be announced	Final Exam

Academic Honesty

CUHK does not allow any form of cheating or plagiarism to occur. Any offense is subject to disciplinary actions. Please read "Honesty in Academic Work: A guide for Students and Teachers", available from the website <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty>.