

**Course Description**

This course provides basic understanding of the salient aspects of the Hong Kong economy. The emphasis will be on both economic analysis and institutional arrangements of the major economic sectors and related policies. Attention will be paid to topics of recent public concern.

The course begins with some discussion on historical development and a current overview. It then goes on to the following topics: the monetary system and exchange rate regime, banking and finance, external trade and investment, the fiscal budget, the labor market, income distribution, competition policy, housing and regional integration. Given time constraint, some topics will be covered in more detail than others.

Students in this course are expected to have completed both ECON1210 (Introductory Microeconomics) and ECON1220 (Introductory Macroeconomics). As the course covers various sectors of the economy, different areas in economics such as monetary economics, international trade and the labor market will be covered but prior enrolment in these elective courses is not required.

**Course Objectives**

1. To provide a basic understanding of the major sectors of the Hong Kong economy.
2. To enable students to analyze and assess economic policies in Hong Kong.
3. To provide students an opportunity to explore a Hong Kong economic issue in depth.

**Faculty Learning Goals (FLGs)**

FLG1: Acquisition and internalization of knowledge of the programme discipline

FLG2: Application and integration of knowledge

FLG3: Inculcating professionalism

FLG4: Developing global outlook

FLG5: Mastering communication skills

FLG6: Cultivating leadership

**Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CLOs)**

<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Aligned FLGs</b>
Upon completing this course, students should be able to:	
CLO1: understand the functioning of the major sectors of the Hong Kong economy	FLG1, FLG2, FLG4
CLO2: analyze current economic issues and policies in Hong Kong	FLG1, FLG2, FLG4, FLG6
CLO3: apply basic economic principles to enlighten the	FLG1, FLG2, FLG4, FLG6

analysis of a particular economy CLO4: use relevant data to enlighten the analysis of an economic issue CLO5: enhance teamwork ability and communication skills through a group project	FLG1, FLG2, FLG4, FLG6 FLG5, FLG6
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### **Assessment and Requirements**

The course grade will depend on performance in tutorials (20%), a group project (30%) and a final exam (50%).

There will be weekly tutorials beginning the third week of the semester. Problems and readings will be assigned, and students are graded according to their preparation and participation. It should be noted that tutorials are an integral part of the course and may cover materials not directly discussed in lectures.

If class enrolment is not large enough to warrant tutorial support, the 20% will be replaced by either quizzes, a mid-term exam, or writing assignments.

Students will form groups to work on a specific topic on the Hong Kong economy and make presentation on their views and arguments. To ensure steady progress throughout the term, students are required to submit a list of their group members and a tentative topic by 12 noon, September 18 (Sunday). They are also required to submit a structured outline (template to be provided) by 12 noon, October 23 (Sunday). The instructor will comment on the outline to guide students' further investigation. The presentation will be towards the end of the semester and the logistics will be arranged in due course. More information on the group project will be provided.

The exam will be arranged by the University during the exam period. It will cover all materials discussed in classes and tutorials. It will be a close-book exam and no reference to any source will be allowed.

### **Teaching and Learning Activities (TLA)**

	Activities	Expected Study Hours	Study Load (% of Study)
TLA1	Lectures	36	26.9%
TLA2	Review for 2 quizzes	12	9.0%
TLA3	Group Project research, discussion, and preparation	40	29.9%
TLA4	Consultation with the instructor on the group project	6	4.4%
TLA5	Review for final exam	40	29.9%
	Total	134	100%

### **Alignments between CLOs, TLAs and Assessment Tasks**

CLO	TLA	Assessment
CLO1	TLA1, TLA2, TLA3, TLA4	Quizzes, exam

CLO2	TLA1, TLA2, TLA3, TLA4	Quizzes, group project, exam
CLO3	TLA1, TLA2, TLA3, TLA4	Quizzes, group project, exam
CLO4	TLA1, TLA2, TLA3, TLA5	Quizzes, group project
CLO5	TLA3, TLA4, TLA5	Group project

### **Standards of Assessment**

Grade	Grade Definition	Description
A+, A, A-	High distinction 80%-100%	Strong evidence of superb ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at all levels of learning: describe, apply, evaluate, and synthesis.
B+, B, B-	Distinction 70%-79%	Strong evidence of the ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at all levels of learning: describe, apply, evaluate, and synthesis.
C+, C, C-	Credit pass 60%-69%	Evidence of adequate ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at low levels of learning such as describe and apply but not at high levels of learning such as evaluate and synthesis
D+, D	Pass 50%-59%	Evidence of basic familiarity with the subject.
F	Fail <50%	Little evidence of basic familiarity with the subject.

### **Tentative Teaching Schedule**

The course will proceed according to the following schedule. Note that tutorials are not included in the table.

Date	Class	Topic
Sep 2	1	Past development and current overview
Sep 9	2	The monetary and exchange rate system
Sep 16	3	The monetary and exchange rate system
Sep 18		Group project topic and group member list due at 12 noon
Sep 23	4	Banking and finance
Sep 30	5	Banking and finance
Oct 7	6	External trade and investment
Oct 14		Reading week
Oct 21	7	External trade and investment
Oct 23		Group project outline due at 12 noon
Oct 28	8	The fiscal budget
Nov 4	9	The labor market and income distribution
Nov 11	10	Competition policy
Nov 18	11	The housing sector
Nov 25	12	Regional integration and the greater bay area
TBA		Group project presentation
TBA		Final exam

## **Course Materials**

There is no textbook on the Hong Kong economy, at least no book that is updated and with appropriate coverage. Relevant materials scatter in books, journals, working papers, government publications and websites. Students should find it a valuable learning experience to integrate readings from various sources. It will also be the attempt of lectures and tutorials to pull different materials together.

Brief lecture outlines (in powerpoint format) will be provided to students before class discussion. However, students should realize that these outlines are not meant to be a complete set of course notes. It is the personal view of the instructor that course notes should not be readymade and uniform for all students. Instead, they should be output of the individual students themselves through their own intellectual process after attending lectures, preparing, and participating in tutorials, and reading course materials. Every student will have to take/prepare notes according to his or her own need and understanding.

Links to online materials discussed in class are provided in the powerpoint files and tutorial problem sheets. Most of the updated materials and data can be found in the following:

1. Hong Kong SAR Government, The Chief Executive's Policy Address, recent years.
2. Hong Kong SAR Government, The Budget, recent years.
3. Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Quarterly Bulletin, various issues.
4. Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Research Memorandums, various issues.
5. Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department, various publications.
6. <https://www.hkeconomy.gov.hk/en/home/index.htm>
7. <https://www.byccensus2016.gov.hk/en/index.html>
8. [https://www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/page\\_8000.html](https://www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/page_8000.html)
9. International Monetary Fund, People's Republic of China Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Country Reports, recent issues.

## **Academic Conduct**

The University Regulations on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. Academic dishonesty is behavior in which a deliberately fraudulent misrepresentation is employed in an attempt to gain undeserved intellectual credit, either for oneself or for another. It includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following types of cases:

- a. Plagiarism - The representation of someone else's ideas and writing as if they are ones own. Where the arguments, data, designs, etc., of someone else are being used in a paper, report, oral presentation, or similar academic project, this fact must be made explicitly clear by citing the appropriate references. The references must fully indicate

the extent to which any parts of the project are not one's own work. Paraphrasing of someone else's ideas is still using someone else's ideas, and must be acknowledged. You should be responsible for knowing what constitute plagiarism. If you are in doubt, check the University Statement on plagiarism on the web for your reference: <http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism/>.

- b. Unauthorized Collaboration on Out-of-Class Projects – The representation of work as solely one's own when in fact it is the result of a joint effort.
- c. Cheating on In-Class Exams – The covert gathering of information from other students, the use of unauthorized notes, unauthorized aids, etc.
- d. Unauthorized Advance Access to an Exam – The representation of materials prepared at leisure, as a result of unauthorized advance access (however obtained), as if it were prepared under the rigors of the exam setting. This misrepresentation is dishonest in itself even if there are not compounding factors, such as unauthorized uses of books or notes.

Where a candidate for a degree or other award uses the work of another person or persons without due acknowledgement, and when any academic dishonesty is detected:

1. the relevant Board of Examiners may impose a penalty in relation to the seriousness of the offence;
2. the relevant Board of Examiners may report the candidate to the Senate, where there is *prima facie* evidence of an intention to deceive and where sanctions beyond those in (1) might be invoked, including discontinuation.

To avoid intellectual property and copyright infringement, and/or violation of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, DO NOT upload HKU teaching-related materials including but not limited to course materials, marking schemes, examination papers, etc. to websites. If you have done so in the past, you are asked to take steps to take down relevant materials immediately.

## Offices

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