



1. General Information

Course Subject	ECON
Course Number	4200
Course Title	Senior Seminar in Economics and Finance
Academic Years	2024-2025
Grading Method	Letter

2. Instructors

Professor LUO, Yulei
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Subclasses: 1A,2G

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Professor CHING, Tang Foon Stephen
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Professor HUANG, Shiyang
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Professor LIU, Tingjun
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Professor XU, Pai Steven
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Professor ZHANG, Hongsong
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Professor LIN, Tse-Chun
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2. Instructors

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Professor HEESE, Carl
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Subclasses: 2N

4. Course Description

Course Description

This course applies core theoretical knowledge in economics and/or finance acquired throughout the undergraduate curriculum to research a real issue. The student may select and match core theoretical concepts with significant applications in the world, which could be of local, regional and global relevance, both contemporary and historical. The selection will include an application of these concepts to either the making of public policy or the strategic management of the firm. The choice of research topic should be selected to help students consolidate and integrate the concepts and tools learned in economics and/or finance through an analysis of the nature of the problem, its causes and consequences, the choice of feasible solutions, their tradeoffs, and also normative and political economy considerations.

Each student will conduct faculty directed policy analysis in form of collaborative group or individual projects. The exact area of policy analysis may vary, depending on the general interests of class AND instructors in charge of the class.

5. Course Objectives

1. Students should apply the reasoning they learn from the discipline to analyzing policy issues and make recommendations accordingly. Students should integrate their whole corpus of knowledge through application of concepts in economics and/or finance, including the strategic management of organizations. In any context, the potential economic impact of policy-oriented proposals on various affected agents and parties can be properly assessed.

2. Meanwhile, students' discussion, debating, presentation and teamwork skills should be developed.

3. Students' leadership qualities will be enhanced by strengthening their ability to integrate their knowledge through application. They will learn to appreciate the challenges of developing and undertaking an independent project.

4. Throughout the course, students will be aware of the challenges and responsibilities a leader has to contemplate in making decisions, and taking into consideration ethical concerns and political economy constraints.

6. Faculty Learning Goals

Goal 1: Acquisition and internalization of knowledge of the programme discipline

6. Faculty Learning Goals

Goal 2: Application and integration of knowledge

Goal 3: Inculcating professionalism

Goal 4: Developing global outlook

Goal 5: Mastering communication skills

Goal 6: Cultivating leadership

7. Course Learning Outcomes

Course Teaching and Learning Activities	Aligned Faculty Learning Goals					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
CLO1. Identifying and analyzing real economic problems with theoretical knowledge	✓	✓				
CLO2. Assessing the political economy aspects of policy proposals	✓	✓		✓		
CLO3. Conducting research project with appropriate approach and methodology	✓	✓				
CLO4. Integrating the whole knowledge base acquired in the study of program		✓				
CLO5. Development in discussion and team work skills			✓		✓	✓
CLO6. Effective presentation and communication in research		✓	✓		✓	✓
CLO7. Improvement in leadership quality			✓			✓
CLO8. Awareness of ethical concerns in conducting research			✓			✓
CLO9. Capability of writing report on research findings		✓	✓		✓	✓

8. Course Teaching and Learning Activities

Course Teaching and Learning Activities #	Expected Study Hours	Study Load (% of study)
T&L1. (Lectures) Instructor will give lectures on major concepts and issues at the beginning.	18	15
T&L2. (Research projects) Students will meet during allocated class time to work on the project under the guidance of instructor. Students will also work on individual or group research projects outside class time.	66	55
T&L3. (In-class presentation and peer assessment) Students are expected to present their proposal and midterm progress during allocated class time. Most in-depth learning takes place when students actively engage themselves in discussions through presenting and sharing their ideas.	24	20
T&L4. (Consultation) Professor holds weekly consultation hours to answer students' questions. Students are also encouraged to discuss questions with the instructor by email or a forum in the class website.	12	10
	Total: 120	Total: 100

9. Assessment Methods

Assessment Methods	Description	Weight %	Aligned Course Learning Outcomes
A1. Attendance/ Participation—Interactive Lectures	(compulsory, at least 80%)	0%	1,2,3,4,5
A2. Outside Classroom activities	Online quizzes	10%	1,2,3,4,5
A3. Project (Individual)—Proposal	Proposal Presentation	20%	1,2,3,4,5,6
A4. Project (Group)—Presentation	Midterm Presentation	30%	1,2,3,4,5,6
A5. Final Exam	Final Report	40%	1,2,3,4,6,7,8

10. Course Grade Descriptors

A+,A,A-	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-	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-	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	Evidence of basic familiarity with the subject.
F	Little evidence of basic familiarity with the subject.

13. Means / Processes for Student feedback on Course

Conducting mid-term survey in addition to SETL around the end of the semester
Online response via Moodle site
Others

14. Course Policy

Attendance:

Class attendance is compulsory. Except under very special circumstances approved by the instructor, students who have less than 80% of attendance will receive a failure grade.

Deadlines:

All graded materials should be taken or submitted at the stated time unless you have a valid university excuse (death in immediate family, illness requiring you to seek a doctor's care, etc). Unless circumstances preclude it, advance notice is requested. Assignments turned in after the deadline may be accepted with a reduced grade. My sympathy goes out to those who fall victim to a computer crash. However, no extension of time is granted for computer glitches. While you cannot anticipate a crash, you can reduce its serious consequences by making frequent back-up copies as you work, and by not waiting until the last minute to get assignments done.

Academic Conduct:

The University Regulations on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced! Please check the University Statement on plagiarism on the web (<http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism/>). 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:

- (i) **Plagiarism: The representation of someone else's ideas as if they are one's 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.**
- (ii) **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.
- (iii) **Cheating on In-Class Exams:** The covert gathering of information from other students, the use of unauthorized notes, unauthorized aids, etc.
- (iv) **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:

- (i) The relevant Board of Examiners may impose a penalty in relation to the seriousness of the offence;
 - (ii) 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 (i) might be invoked.
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