

**Course Descriptions of 2020-21**

*(Information of the courses is subject to changes)*

**ECON4294 Dissertation (12 credits)**

Candidates may write a dissertation under the supervision of faculty members. Topics offered may vary from year to year, depending on the research interests of the lecturer. A satisfactory dissertation may be offered in lieu of two written papers in the Examination.

Candidates must submit the title and an outline of their dissertation for approval by the BEcon/BEcon&Fin Programme Director not later than the last day of the revision period in the first semester. The dissertation shall be completed and presented not later than the first day of the assessment period for the second semester. (Note: The course extends over two semesters. Candidates must enroll in the first semester.)

Prerequisites: ECON2210 Intermediate microeconomics; *and*  
ECON2220 Intermediate macroeconomics; *and*  
ECON2280 Introductory econometrics; *and*  
Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above at the time of enrolment

Remarks: Open only to Year 4 students majoring in Economics. Candidates intending to take this course shall complete an application form which is available at the Faculty Office (Room 1305, K.K. Leung Building).

**FINA4392 Dissertation (12 credits)**

Candidates may write a dissertation under the supervision of faculty members. A satisfactory dissertation may be offered in lieu of two written papers in the Examination.

Candidates must submit the title and an outline of their dissertation for approval by the BEcon/BEcon&Fin Programme Director not later than the last day of the revision period in the first semester. The dissertation shall be completed and presented not later than the first day of the assessment period for the second semester. (Note: The course extends over two semesters. Candidates must enroll in the first semester.)

Prerequisites: ECON2280 Introductory econometrics; *and*  
FINA2320 Investments and portfolio analysis; *and*  
FINA2322 Derivatives; *and*  
Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above at the time of enrolment

Remarks: Open only to Year 4 students majoring in Finance. Candidates intending to take this course shall complete an application form which is available at the Faculty Office (Room 1305, K.K. Leung Building).

**ECON6005 Econometrics Theory I (6 credits)**

This course is an introduction to econometric theory and applications at an advanced level. Candidates are expected to be proficient in calculus, matrix algebra, and econometrics at the undergraduate level. Potential topics to be discussed include the classical linear model, generalized method of moments, and multiple equation models.

*Note: Candidates may be required to pass a mathematics test in order to take the course.*

**ECON6010 Monetary Policy: Theory and Practice (6 credits)**

This course traces the evolution of central banks over the last 200 years from primitive financial clearing-houses to promoters of macroeconomic stability and growth as a natural progression as policy-makers sought to combat various challenges to macroeconomic stability, such as inflation and systemic financial risk. The course will discuss different monetary policy regimes, including currency boards and inflation targeting, and the inherent trade-offs between them, focusing especially on the importance of credibility and expectations. Optimal monetary policy design and the monetary transmission mechanism will also be covered.

**ECON6011 Microeconomic Theory (6 credits)**

This course covers how consumers and producers make choices and how these choices are equilibrated by the market. In the part on choice theory, utility maximization and profit maximization problems together with corresponding dual problems are considered. Optimal value functions are studied and used to perform comparative static analysis. Restrictions imposed by optimization on consumer and producer behaviour are discussed. Choices under uncertainty are also investigated. The second part mainly covers the equilibrium in perfectly competitive markets and the two fundamental welfare theorems. It will also discuss the consequences of market failures, including public goods, externalities, and market power. Game theory will also be introduced.

**ECON6012 Macroeconomic Theory (6 credits)**

This course covers neo-classical macroeconomics, the Keynesian model and its problems, the consumption function and investment and economic fluctuations, supply and demand of money, the counter-revolution in monetary theory, inflation and unemployment and alternative policies for dealing with them, and open economy macroeconomics.

**ECON6036 Game Theory and Applications (6 credits)**

This course covers game theory and its applications to various fields of economics. It studies static games with complete information, dynamic games with complete information, static games with incomplete information, dynamic games with incomplete information, and the equilibrium concepts corresponding to these games. It considers applications of these concepts to the study of industrial organization, international trade, labor economics, public economics, corporate finance, and monetary economics. Applications to auction and bargaining are also considered. Finally, it offers an introduction to mechanism design and its application to the procurement problem.

The list of RPg courses currently on offer and the course outlines in 2020-21:

<https://www.fbe.hku.hk/phd/course/phd-mphil>