

**The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Department of Economics**

**ECON1010AB/UGEC1511AB  
Perspectives in Economics  
1<sup>st</sup> Term 2020 – 2021**

**Course Objective**

This course provides an introduction to the nature of the economic problem and how society and man deal with the economic problem. This course aims to equip students so that they are economic literate. Students will learn the meaning of terms and concepts that will help them understand current social, political and economic events and be able to apply the knowledge in their everyday lives.

**Learning Outcome**

After completion of the course, students are expected to:

- acquire and understand the problem-solving skills (knowledge and tools, concepts and theories) taught in the course.
- be able to apply these skills in their everyday lives and current issues or events.
- master the skills in such a way that they can think more coherently and consistently about a wide range of problems (economic, social and political) and can critically analyzed on policy matters.

**Instructor**

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**Teaching Assistant**

TBA

\* All course enquiries of an administrative nature are to be directed to your tutors.

**Textbook**

Mankiw, N. Gregory, *Essentials of Economics*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, Thomson South-Western OR  
Mankiw, N. Gregory, *Principles of Economics*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, Cengage Learning.

**Other Book Reference**

Heyne, P., P. Boettke and D. Prychitko (2006), *The Economic Way of Thinking*, 11<sup>th</sup> edition, Prentice Hall.

Dixit, A. and S. Skeath (2009), *Games of Strategy*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Norton.

**Online Materials**

Links are to be provided in Blackboard Learn on statistics, news-clip or articles and videos for elaboration of theories.

## Assessment

Your final grade is awarded according to the following methods and percentages:

- Two Discussions 20%
- Quiz 30%
- Final examination 50%

*Note:*

### ***Schedule of Discussion, Quiz and Final Examination***

1. *The two discussions are tentatively scheduled in Week 6 (12 – 16 October) and Week 9 (2 – 6 November) to be conducted online via ZOOM. Details are to be released in Blackboard a week before each discussion.*
2. *While the **quiz** is scheduled in **Week 11 (16 – 20 November)** to be conducted on campus if condition allows, the final examination is centrally arranged by the Registration and Examination Section.*
3. *If pandemic condition persists and makes on-campus tests impossible during that time, the quiz will be changed to an online mode via Blackboard and a take-home examination will replace the final examination. More details will be announced when time approaches.*

*There will DEFINITELY be **NO MAKE-UP** quiz or examination **except** with the university approved reasons/justifications. Application for a make-up quiz has to be filed (by sending an email to me at [prileung@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:prileung@cuhk.edu.hk) with supporting documents) within four days after the quiz date. No make-up will be arranged for late application.*

### **Grade Descriptors**

A	Excellent performance on all learning outcomes. Brilliant and thorough understanding of knowledge and tools acquired from the course. Outstanding ability to coherently and critically analyze and apply concepts and theories to issues, possibly with appropriate examples used and in different aspects. Extraordinary high ability in expressing ideas and arguments.
B	Good performance on all learning outcomes. Substantial understanding of concepts, theories and tools acquired from the course. Sufficient applications and analysis in the domain of economics. High ability to show ideas and arguments with clarity.
C	Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes. Fair understanding of concepts and theories with some applications and analysis and limited reflection.
D	Performance is merely satisfactory on a few of learning outcomes. Modest understanding of concepts and theories with insufficient and inappropriate applications and analysis.
F	Poor performance on the learning outcomes. Failure to show understanding of basic concepts and ideas of the course. OR Failure to meet the requirements of specified assessments.

**Topics** (*subject to minor changes*)

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	Introduction Cost of Living and Inflation
2	Unemployment
3	National Income Accounting
4 – 5	Marginal Concepts: Value and Cost; Demand and Supply
6 – 7	Demand and Supply Application: Equilibrium, Taxation and Efficiency
8	Asymmetric Information and its Application
9	Costs of Production
10	Competition versus Monopoly Price Setting
12 – 13	Game Theory

Note:

- 1. All the classes are conducted online via Zoom.**
2. Though the textbook used is closely followed for the topics covered, the assessments are mainly on materials discussed in classes.

**Blackboard Learn**

Students who are enrolled in the course can get access to our Blackboard Learn site at [www.elearning.cuhk.edu.hk/blackboard](http://www.elearning.cuhk.edu.hk/blackboard). From the course site, you can read the course announcements, download lecture notes, exercises and solution guides etc.