

ECON4901C Guided Studies in Current Economic Problems II

Department of Economics

Chinese University of Hong Kong

2021-22 Term 1

Instructor: Prof. Sunny Kai-Sun Kwong (ELB935) kaisunkwong@cuhk.edu.hk

Class Time: Thursday 2:30-4:30pm

Venue: FYB107B (face-to-face teaching)

Description

This course is designed for economics majors in their final year of study.

The course is divided into two parts. Part 1 is two workshops on research methodology and skills in handling data. Part 2 is the development of individual projects, paper presentations, and class discussions.

The objective of the course is to apply what students have learned in major courses to the analysis of real-world economic issues and problems. Both theoretical and empirical approaches are welcome.

Students are required to do research independently, present the project's motivation and its results. A paper has to be submitted at the end of the course.

Course Components

Part I: Workshops

Two 2-hour meetings in the evening. Students of all sections of ECON4901 attend together.

Workshop I: Research Methodology

15 Sep 2021 6:30pm-8:15pm YIA LT1

Workshop II: STATA (choose either English or Cantonese)

Section A: 24 Sep 2021 2:30pm-4:30pm (English) ELB LT2

or

Section B: 24 Sep 2021 6:30pm-8:30pm (Cantonese) CYT LT1A

N.B. Bring your laptop to this workshop

Part II: Research Projects

Each student has to undertake an individual research project.

Assessment Scheme

Part 1: Workshops

Attendance (4%)

Assignments (16%)

Part II: Research Projects

Class Participation (15%)

Presentations (25%)

Final Report (40%)

Course Schedule

| Date | Time | Activity |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| September 9 | Normal class time | Find a topic |
| 15 | 6:30-8:30pm | Methodology workshop |
| 16 | Normal class time | Find a topic |
| 23 | Normal class time | Find a topic |
| 24 | 2:30-4:30pm <i>or</i> | STATA workshop |
| 24 | 6:30-8:30pm | STATA workshop |
| 30 | Normal class time | Conclude a topic |
| October 7 | Normal class time | Consultation |
| 21 | Normal class time | Consultation |
| 28 | Normal class time | Consultation |
| November 11 | Normal class time | Consultation |
| 18 | Normal class time | Final Presentation |
| 25 | Normal class time | Final Presentation |
| December 1 | Normal class time | Final Presentation |

Course Requirements

Workshops – Students must attend the two workshops, which cover research methods and data handling skills. Assignments will be distributed, which account for 16% of the course.

Brainstorming – in the classes of September, we will brainstorm on project topics. Each student will be guided to zero in on a topic, ask the pertinent questions, and come up with a research plan. In an open environment, each student will participate in the thinking process of other students.

Performance will count towards Class Participation. Students who participate actively and contribute significantly to discussion will be given higher marks.

Consultation – each student will be guided individually in executing the research plan.

Final presentation – students will take turn to present their research results. Other students will give comments, which will count towards Class Participation as well. Presentation and results will account for 25% of the course.

Final report – a final report must be submitted before the deadline, max. 10 pages excluding tables, figures, references (A4, font size 12, double line spacing). Submission deadline will be announced in class.

Academic Honesty

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign on the declaration. For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.