

Department of Economics
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

ECON1220B Contemporary Economic Thinking (2021-22 Term 2)

Zoom:

<https://cuhk.zoom.us/j/97479433134?pwd=bkhBWENaYW5PVUI0SGhYanRUaERNZz09>

Meeting ID: 974 7943 3134

Passcode: 215280

Instructor: Prof. Kwong Kai Sun, Sunny

Office/Email: ELB935, kaisunkwong@cuhk.edu.hk

Class Times: Monday 12:30pm – 3:30pm

Classroom: HTB B6

Teaching Assistant: Ms. Carol Wong, panyanwong@cuhk.edu.hk

Course Description

This course mainly explores the perspective in which contemporary economists analyze current social problems/issues. Students will be introduced to the fundamental theories and principles of the economic science. These theories and principles will then be used to analyze and understand contemporary economic issues. No prior knowledge of economics is assumed. Intuitive reasoning is used throughout, with little usage of mathematics.

This course is designed for elective students who are not majoring or minoring in economics.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, the student should:

- 1) Understand intuitively the basic principles and concepts of economics.
- 2) Be able to use the economics perspective to understand current affairs.
- 3) Be able to apply economic logic to analyzing contemporary economic issues.

References

Mankiw, Gregory (2017), Principles of Economics (8th edition), Cengage Learning

Pindyck, Robert and Daniel Rubinfeld (2012), Microeconomics (8th edition), Pearson.

Assessment Scheme

In-class discussion (10%)

Mid-term exam (40%) – online Zoom

Final exam (50%) – online Zoom

Grade Descriptors

A	Outstanding performance in all aspects and on all learning outcomes Demonstrates superior understanding of course materials Far exceeds expectations for students at this level of study
A-	Outstanding performance in most aspects and almost all learning outcomes Demonstrates superior understanding of most course materials Exceeds expectations for students at this level of study
B+	Substantial performance in all/most learning outcomes
B	Substantial understanding of all/most/substantial part of course materials
B-	Meets expectations for students at this level of study
C+	Satisfactory performance in all/most learning outcomes
C	Satisfactory understanding of all/most/substantial part of course materials
C-	Slightly below expectations for students at this level of study
D+	Barely satisfactory performance in all/most learning outcomes
D	Barely satisfactory understanding of all/most course materials Significantly below expectations for students at this level of study
F	Far below expectations for students at this level of study Failure to meet essential requirements of this course

Class Schedule

Week	Topics
Jan 10	Tradeoffs
Jan 17	Economic Behaviors
Jan 24	Price Determination
Feb 7	Advantages of the Market
Feb 14	Limits of the market
Feb 21	Can the Market be applied to everything?
Feb 28	Mid-Term Exam
Mar 7	Making people work
Mar 14	Left or Right
Mar 21	What drives stock prices?
Mar 28	Investment basics
Apr 11	Current Affairs
To be announced	Final Exam

Academic Honesty

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