

CLD9002: Understanding Social and Economic Indicators

(Lecture: Wednesdays 16:30-18:30 at LBY-G06)

(Tutorial: Mondays 12:30-13:30 at LKK-304 or Thursdays 12:30-13:30 at LKK-G03)

Instructors

Professor Satoshi ARAKI

Office: WYL309

Office Hours: Mondays 8:30-10:30; Wednesdays 9:00-11:00

Email: satsoshiaraki@ln.edu.hk

Mr. Leung Hin Shing

Office: WYL205

Office Hours: Mondays 13:30 - 14:30; Wednesdays 13:30 - 14:30;

Thursday 11:30 - 12:30 & 14:30 - 15:30

Email: hinshingleung@ln.edu.hk

Course Overview

The course introduces students to the nature, measurements, and limitations of major social and economic indicators that have been used internationally to measure and compare socio-economic conditions across societies. After learning commonly used indicators worldwide, students will apply them to assess the social and economic development of Hong Kong.

Required/Essential Readings

Lau, S. K. (Leung S.W.), M. K. Lee, P. S. Wan, and S. L. Wong (eds.), various years, *Indicators of Social Development: Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Mankiw, G., *Principles of Macroeconomics*, 5th ed., S-W College Pub., 2008.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and explain the nature, measurements, and limitations of major social and economic indicators;
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the social and economic conditions of Hong Kong from an international perspective;
3. Analyse the status quo and trend of socio-economic development in Hong Kong;
4. Possess relevant skills to identify and use social and economic data.

Teaching Method

Lectures combine with tutorials. Lectures provide students with knowledge of major social and economic indicators including how they are used in a global context. In tutorials, students will be divided into groups to make presentations through discussing and analysing the applicability and limitations of selected indicators in

Hong Kong.

Assessment and Measurement of Learning Outcomes

1. Tutorial presentation (25%) (LOs 1-4)

In tutorials, students will be divided into groups to work on the above discussion topics. Each group will choose two topics (one from economic and the other from social indicators), collect and analyse relevant data, and make two presentations (20 minutes for each). Every student is expected to play certain roles in preparing and delivering presentations, while instructors have the right to give different marks to different members of the same group according to their performance. Due dates will be announced in the first class of the course.

2. Presentation reports (25%) (LOs 1-4)

Based on the presentations as well as lectures, each group will draft two presentation reports (one for economic and the other for social indicators). Reports should include the chosen topics; data and methods of analysis; results and implications; and limitations and potential for further investigation. Each report should be no more than 10 pages (exclusive of references and appendices), double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 font with 1-inch margins. In both papers, students need to clarify how each member of the group has contributed to preparing presentations and reports. Due dates will be announced in the first class of the course.

3. Tutorial participation (10%) (LOs 1-4)

Each group will also be responsible for commenting on other groups' presentations. To ensure interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary communication, students will be required to critically assess and give constructive feedback. Instructors have the right to give different marks according to their performance.

4. Final examination (40%) (LOs 1-4)

The final exam consists of essay-type questions assessing students' understanding and skills to handle social and economic data. Students will be required to analyse key indicators and describe characteristics of societies/economies in a scientific manner. Exam date will be announced in due course. This is the chance for students to demonstrate their learning achievement comprehensively.

Students with Disabilities

If you need any support due to a disability, please feel free to contact instructors to make necessary arrangements.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is very important, and students are expected to abide by Lingnan University's Honor Code. See below for more details.

Course Contents

<Introduction>

1. The nature of social and economic indicators
2. Major global social and economic indicators: Sources of data

<Economic Indicators>

1. Measures of macroeconomic indicators
 - a. Gross domestic product
 - b. Economic growth
 - c. Cost of living and inflation
 - d. Unemployment

Discussion topic 1: How do you compare Hong Kong's economic growth with other countries/regions?

2. Measures of open economy
 - a. Import and export
 - b. Trade deficit
 - c. Exchange rate
 - d. Purchasing power parity

Discussion topic 2: What are the major challenges that Hong Kong face as an international financial center?

3. Measures of economic fluctuations
 - a. Aggregate demand
 - b. Aggregated supply
 - c. Short-run and long-run fluctuation
 - d. Monetary and fiscal policy

Discuss topics 3: How Hong Kong economy has been influenced by the current slowdown of US economy?

<Social Indicators>

1. Measures of population dynamics and ageing
 - a. Population size, growth, distribution and pyramid
 - b. Mortality, fertility and migration
 - c. Population ageing

Discussion topic 4: Identify one timely population problem in Hong Kong and discuss its social implications.

2. Measures of education
 - a. Pre-primary, primary, and secondary
 - b. Tertiary and others

Discussion topic 5: How do you evaluate the quantity and quality of education in Hong Kong? Explain from a comparative perspective.

3. Measures of quality of life
 - a. Objective indicators (housing, environment, safety, life expectation etc.)
 - b. Subjective indicators (happiness, life satisfaction, self-reported health etc.)

Discussion topic 6: What do you think is the most important element concerning QOL? Explain why and describe its current status and trend in Hong Kong from a comparative perspective.

Recommended/Supplementary Readings

Census and Statistics Department, Various years, *Census and Bi-census Report*, Hong Kong: Government Printer.

Census and Statistics Department, Various years, *Annual Digest of Statistics*, Hong Kong: Government Printer.

Census and Statistics Department, Various years, *Annual Report on the Consumer Price Index*, Hong Kong: Government Printer.

Census and Statistics Department, Biennial, *Hong Kong Social and Economic Trends*, Hong Kong: Government Printer.

Census and Statistics Department, *An outline of Statistical Development*, Hong Kong: Government Printer, 2009.

Census and Statistics Department, *Health Status of Hong Kong Residents Trends*, Thematic Household Survey Report #30, Hong Kong: Government Printer, 2007.

Census and Statistics Department, *Older Persons*, Hong Kong 2006 Bi-census Thematic Report, Hong Kong: Government Printer, 2008.

Census and Statistics Department, Various months, *Hong Kong Merchandise Trade Index Numbers*, Hong Kong: Government Printer.

Case, Karl E. and Ray C. Fair, *Principles of Macroeconomics*, 8th Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Various years, *Society At A Glance*, OECD Publication.

The United Nations (Department of Social and Economic affairs), *Global Challenge and Global Opportunity: Trends in Sustainable Development*, N.Y.: United Nations, 2002.

The United Nations (Population Division), *World Population Ageing*, 2007, N.Y.: United Nations, 2008.

The United Nations (Population Division), *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision*. N.Y.: United Nations, 2009.

The United Nations (Statistics Division), *Handbook of Social Indicators*, N.Y.: United Nations, 1989.

The United Nations (Statistics Division), *The World's Women 2005: Progress in Statistics*. N.Y.: United Nations, 2006.

The World Bank, Various years, *World Development Report*, The World Bank.

World Economic Forum, Various years, *Global Competitiveness Report*. WEF Publication.

World Health Organisation, Various years, *The World Health Report*, WHO Publication.

Important Notes

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.

Lecture Schedule (may be subject to change)

Date	Content	
19 Jan	Introduction	Course Overview and Introduction
26 Jan	Economic Indicators 1	Measures of macroeconomic indicators
2 Feb	Holiday (class suspended)	
9 Feb	Economic Indicators 2	Measures of macroeconomic indicators
16 Feb	Economic Indicators 3	Measures of open economy
23 Feb	Sports Day (class suspended)	
2 Mar	Economic Indicators 4	Measures of open economy
9 Mar	Economic Indicators 5	Measures of economic fluctuations
16 Mar	Economic Indicators 6	Measures of economic fluctuations

23 Mar	Social Indicators 1	Introduction to social indicators
30 Mar	Social Indicators 2	Population, Education, and Quality of Life
6 Apr	Social Indicators 3	Population
13 Apr	Social Indicators 4	Education
20 Apr	Social Indicators 5	Quality of life
27 Apr	Social Indicators 6	Quality of life and Feedback

Tutorial Schedule (may be subject to change)

Date	Content	
13/17 Jan	No tutorial	
20/24 Jan	Economic Indicators 1	Selection of presentation topics
27/31 Jan	Economic Indicators 2	Group work/ Reserve for additional lecture
3/7 Feb	Holiday (class suspended)	
10/14 Feb	Economic Indicators 3	Group work/ Reserve for additional lecture
17/21 Feb	Economic Indicators 4	Additional Lecture (Measures of open economy)
24/28 Feb	Economic Indicators 5	Presentation
3/7 Mar	Economic Indicators 6	Presentation
10/14 Mar	Social Indicators 1	Selection of topics and group work
17/21 Mar	Social Indicators 2	Group work and progress review
24/28 Mar	Social Indicators 3	Group work and progress review
31 Mar/4 Apr	Social Indicators 4	Group work and progress review
7/11 Apr	Social Indicators 5	Presentation
14/18 Apr	Holiday (class suspended)	
21/25 Apr	Social Indicators 6	Presentation

Important Dates

Presentation Report (Economic Indicators) Due: 21 Mars 2022

Presentation Report (Social Indicators) Due: 3 May 2022

Final Examination: Within the university exam period (between 4 and 17 May 2022).

Exam date will be announced in due course.