

Lingnan University
Department of Economics

Course Title	:	Introduction to Economics
Course Code	:	ECO2101
Recommended Study Year	:	1 and 2
No. of Credits/Term	:	3
Mode of Tuition	:	Lecture-Tutorial
Class Contact Hours	:	2-hour lecture per week 1-hour tutorial per week
Category in Major Prog.	:	BSocSc Foundation Course (Required Course, except ECON and GEB))
Discipline	:	Economics
Prerequisite(s)	:	N/A
Co-requisite(s)	:	N/A
Exclusion(s)	:	Students who have taken either BUS2105 Microeconomics for Business or ECO2104 Introduction to Microeconomics are not allowed to take this course.
Exemption Requirement(s)	:	N/A

Brief Course Description

This course emphasizes the economic way of thinking. It introduces students to the basic principles of microeconomics and macroeconomics and shows them how economists study consumer behaviour, firm behaviour, and the performance of the whole economy. It also demonstrates how these principles can be used to analyse public policies and understand society.

Aims

This course aims to enable students to:

1. understand the basic principles, concepts, theories and techniques in economics;
2. apply economic principles to current economic issues and problems; and
3. equip them with a basic knowledge of economic analysis.

Learning Outcomes (LOs)

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

1. demonstrate an understanding of basic economic concepts and principles;
2. explain and analyse economic problems in terms of theories and diagrams;
3. communicate ideas pertaining to the basic economic concepts, principles, and events effectively both verbally and in writing;
4. identify the possible impacts on the economy due to government policies; and

5. demonstrate the relevance of economic analysis to broad economic, political, and social issues.

Indicative Contents

- I. Fundamental issues of economics
 - a. Scarcity, choice, and opportunity cost
 - b. Production possibilities frontier
 - c. Basic economic problems
 - d. Comparative advantage

- II. Demand and supply
 - a. Demand schedule and demand curve
 - b. Price and non-price determinants of demand
 - c. Supply schedule and supply curve
 - d. Price and non-price determinants of supply

- III. Price determination and elasticity
 - a. Market equilibrium
 - b. Price ceiling and price floor
 - c. Measurement and interpretation of elasticity
 - d. Total revenue and elasticity

- IV. Household behavior and consumer choice
 - a. Marginal utility analysis
 - b. Income and substitution effects
 - c. Consumer surplus

- V. Production, costs, and economic profits
 - a. Economic profit
 - b. Fixed vs. variable costs
 - c. Law of diminishing returns vs. returns to scale
 - d. Short-run vs. long-run cost curves

- VI. Market structure
 - a. Perfect competition
 - b. Monopoly
 - c. Monopolistic competition and oligopoly

- VII. The role of government
 - a. Competition policy and regulation
 - b. Public good
 - c. Taxation and income distribution

- VIII. Concepts and problems in macroeconomics
 - a. Circular flow diagram
 - b. National income accounting
 - c. Unemployment, inflation, and growth

- IX. Aggregate expenditure and equilibrium output
 - a. Consumption function
 - b. Aggregate output and aggregate income
 - c. Equilibrium aggregate output

Teaching Method

Lectures combined with tutorials involving presentations and discussion. Tutorials are designed to assess students' understanding of lectures and assigned readings. Cases discussions on up-to-date headline news with data and diagrams will be discussed in tutorials to help students to understand the real society with economic principles and models.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

1. Lecture quizzes (taken in class as well as outside classtime, outline) measure students' understanding of the basic economic concepts and principles through multiple choice questions and analytical problems. These quizzes will assess students' ability to apply economic reasoning. Quizzes normally will take place on a weekly (1 in-class quiz and 1 out-of-class quiz) basis to ensure that students acquire knowledge and subject content at a consistent pace throughout the semester. The instructor shall provide more details in class and/or on Moodle. (LOs 1-3, 5)
2. Homework assignments (presented in tutorial) derived from Doing Economics will assess a student's ability to apply skills and techniques learned in lecture on practice questions/assignments in tutorials using contemporary policy issues. These assignments, participation, and discussion require students to apply economic reasoning. Although these projects have answers available online, the students should avoid consulting these answers in order to immunize themselves against the temptation to plagiarize. The instructor will pose questions directly to the students during the presentation in order to clarify the students' ideas and to ensure that the students did just more than superficially re-write the answers provided in the online book. In the event of online teaching, presentations and discussion will happen via Zoom. Students will submit completed work to Moodle. (LOs 1-3)
3. Participation in both lecture and tutorial will give students a chance to apply knowledge as they learn it. This participation also helps to advance the course pace in a Socratic tradition. Participation may also include results earned from successful performance in economics experiments during the course. These activities can take place with face-to-face teaching or via Zoom. (LOs 1-3,5)

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4. A final exam will assess students' overall understanding of the contents covered and applications of economic concepts introduced in the course. Examination questions may consist of multiple choice and analytical problems. Multiple choice problems cover a wide range of topics and will test students' broad knowledge. Analytical problems test students' deep knowledge on some selected topics and their abilities to put economic problems onto graphs and diagrams and to explain the problems. In the event of online teaching, this assessment will take place online. (LOs 1-5)

Assessment

Assessment item	Type	Weight
Lecture quizzes	Continuous	20%
Class participation	Continuous	20%
Tutorial project	Continuous	20%
Final Examination	Non-continuous	40%

Good Practices

1. Newspaper articles will be discussed in the tutorials to help the students to understand the real society with the basic economic principles.
2. Mid-term test and assignments are marked and returned to students and instructors/tutors will explain in detail the answers of the assignment and mid-term test questions with basic concepts to strengthen their abilities in economic analysis.
3. An on-line CTE course teaching and learning evaluation is conducted about 6 weeks after the term begins. Students can give early feedback regarding the course.
4. All necessary course materials and readings are uploaded at the course web site at the beginning of the term. Students are trained to read the lecture notes beforehand and being well prepared for classes.

Required/ Essential Reading

(Online textbook) Economy, Society, and Public Policy, available freely online at <https://www.coreecon.org/project/core-espp/>

Gregory Mankiw, Essentials of Economics, 8th Edition (2018), Cengage Learning

Recommended/ Supplementary Readings

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Case and Fair, *Principles of Economics*, 7th Edition, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2004.

Lipsey, R. and A. Chrystal, *Principles of Economics*, 9th ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Parkin, M., *Economics*, 7th Edition, New York: Addison-Wesley, 2005.

Samuelson, Paul A. and William D. Nordhaus, *Economics*, 18th Edition, Boston: McGraw-Hill/Irwin, c2005.

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/>.
- (5) Students are required to fill in a mid-term survey and the end of course CTLE survey.

Grading Rubrics Class Participation and Discussion

Criteria	Excellent 9-10	Good 6-8	Acceptable 3-5	Poor 0-2
Class attendance and participation	Class attendance is regular and the student speaks up regularly and enthusiastically	Class attendance is regular and the student speaks up now and then	Class attendance is quite regular but the student participates only when asked by the instructor	Class attendance is erratic and participation is nil or almost nil
Articulateness	Expression of ideas or opinions were consistently factually accurate, logical and clear	Expression of ideas or opinions were generally factually accurate, logical and clear. Lapses were rare and minor in nature.	Expression of ideas or opinions were generally factually accurate, logical and clear, but with a number of minor lapses	Ideas or opinions were not expressed logically, and were characterized by significant factual inaccuracies and lack of clarity

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Assessment Rubrics for Quizzes and Final Exam

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Meets Minimum Standard	Below Standard
Accuracy (50%)	41-50	31-40	21-20	0-20
	Appropriate concepts are all applied correctly	Most concepts are applied correctly	Some concepts are applied at too general a level or misapplied but the central ones are applied correctly and specifically	Most concepts are applied at too general a level or misapplied
Comprehension of all the relevant concepts. (40%)	31-40	21-30	11-20	0-10
	Demonstrates a deep insightful level of understanding	Demonstrates a good surface level of understanding	Demonstrates a fair level of surface understanding	Demonstrates an inadequate level of understanding
Extent to which ideas are expressed logically, accurately and clearly. (10%)	9-10	7-8	4-6	0-3
	Expression of ideas is consistently accurate, logical and clear	Expression of ideas is generally accurate, logical and clear with some minor lapses	Expression of ideas is comprehensible but there are some major lapses	Largely incomprehensible with some major inconsistencies and errors