

ECON4670

Economics Research and Communication

1 Course Objective

The main objective of the course is to ensure that our ECON major students acquire research and communication skills through producing a research-based term paper. The course provides opportunities for you to apply what you learned in economics, carry out economics research, and practise your analytical and critical thinking skills. We would also like you to learn how to write as an economist.

This is a 0-credit course that is mandatory for every student in BBA ECON, BSc ECOF and BSc MAEC programs. There are at least three ways to fulfil the requirement:

1. Students can take an independent study (ECON4959, 1-4 credits) with one of the faculty members in the department of Economics to receive supervision to write a paper.
2. Students can write a paper via Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) supervised by a faculty member in the Department of Economics.
3. Students can take a 4000-level Economics elective course that has a paper/project requirement. You need to obtain an approval from the course instructor at the beginning of a semester if you would like to pursue ECON4670 requirement by taking his/her course.
4. Students in BSc MAEC program may be able to use the capstone project (MATH4994 or MATH4999) to fulfil the requirement.

For all these cases, students still need to officially register ECON4670 at the beginning of a semester.

2 Course Intended Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be critical and creative thinkers who make effective decisions supported by analytical and quantitative techniques.
2. Graduates will be effective communicators in oral and written English and Chinese for general business applications.
3. Graduates will have broad understanding of the core business functions and integrate these functions to solve business problems.
4. Graduates will have in-depth grasp of their area of business concentration or major.
5. Graduates will be effective team members and leaders.

6. Graduates will understand their professional and ethical responsibility.
7. Graduates will be life-long learners who have an inquiring mind characterized by a love for learning, curiosity, a critical spirit and self-monitoring of their own learning. Act as a lifelong user of economic analysis.

3 Minimum Requirements

- Grading is based on **PASS/FAIL**
- Individual paper: Minimum 5 pages single-space (7-8 pages 1.5 space, 10 pages double space) excluding references and appendixes.
- Group project: No more than 4 students in a group. Minimum length 3.5 pages (single space) per student excluding references and appendixes. (5-6 pages 1.5 space per student, 7 pages double space per student)
- If a paper is written based on the **independent study (ECON4959)** or via pursuing a **UROP project**, the paper should embody the equivalence of a minimum of two credits of workload. A standard at grade C or above must be obtained for the paper.
- If a paper is written based on **an elective course**, the instructor needs to provide students with a clear sense of his/her expectations, and instructions on how to conduct research and present research results in writing. It can be done in lecture/tutorial, and/or in meetings with individual student/group.
- If the course instructor thinks that the term paper/group project requirement in the course does not meet the requirement of ECON4670, he/she may require you to do extra work to extend your term paper/project for the course to satisfy the ECON4670 requirement. Please communicate with your course instructor at the beginning of the semester about the nature of the extra work.
- Latest submission date: **3 weeks before the next term commences**

4 Remarks

- Note that all the requirements specified in this document is only the **minimum requirements**. The actual requirements and workload may vary depending on the standard set by the course instructor or the supervisor of the independent study / UROP project.
- The course instructor, supervisor of the independent study, and main supervisor of the UROP project will clarify under what conditions you may get the FAIL grade.

- If you are fulfilling the requirement in your last semester, receiving the FAIL grade for ECON4670 means that you cannot graduate on time. In any case, it is your responsibility to fulfil the requirement faithfully and obtain the PASS grade.