

ECON 4244

ECONOMICS OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR

Semester: Spring 2023

Lecture time: Monday 4:30pm – 5:50pm, Friday 12:00pm – 1:20pm

Lecture room: LSK 1010

Office hours: open-door policy

Homepage address: <https://canvas.ust.hk/courses/48503>

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OBJECTIVE

This course applies economic principles to understand various aspects of human behavior that have usually been considered to be outside the realm of economics. Topics include irrational behavior, crime, marriage, divorce, family, and philanthropy. Both theoretical and empirical analyses will be emphasized.

READINGS

The CANVAS course homepage contains all the lecture notes, readings, announcements, and homework assignments.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (BBA ECON PILOs)

It is intended that, after completing this course, students will

1. Understand economic critical thinking (Objectives 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4)
2. Understand the logic and scientific basis of economic analyses
3. Have a sophisticated knowledge of economics and can use it to explain economic and social phenomena (Objective 4.1)
4. Analyze qualitatively and quantitatively basic economic and social problems (Objective 4.2)
5. Apply economic knowledge to practical situations and make sound economic decisions (Objective 4.3)
6. Conduct basic economic analysis and research of the economy and society (Objective 4.4)
7. Understand cultural diversity (Objective 6)
8. Have informed ethical thinking based on rigorous economic and social analyses (Objective 8)
9. Communicate effectively (Objectives 2, 7)
10. Be a lifelong user of economic analysis (Objective 9)

TEACHING APPROACH

This course is delivered primarily through lectures and tutorials. Videos (documentary and movie clips) are shown from time to time. Class discussion plays a major role in learning. A considerable amount of time will be devoted to class discussion.

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITES

Microeconomics (ECON 3113 or ECON 3014), Econometrics (ECON 3334)
Multivariate Calculus

ESSAY

To experience the joy (as well as pain) of scientific inquiry and to train your writing skills, you are required to submit a research essay. The essay will also satisfy the requirement for ECON 4670 (<https://econ.hkust.edu.hk/programs-n-courses/ug-programs/econ4670>). The course homepage lists the requirements of the essay and offers some pointers. You will be required to provide a preliminary presentation of your essay in the tutorial. The presentation time is about 4 minutes for each student.

GRADING

There will be a final exam. No makeup exams will be given. The weights determining the course grade are as follows.

Class participation	3%
Tutorial participation	2%
Three homework assignments	18%
Essay	20%
Final exam	57%

HOMEWORK

There will be three homework assignments. You are allowed, and indeed encouraged, to discuss the homework with your classmates, but **you must write the answers by yourself**. All parties involved in plagiarism will be severely punished. Late homework will not be accepted.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND HONESTY

The University is a community designed for scholarship — for learning, teaching and research. Academic integrity and honesty are critical values in upholding HKUST's reputation as a community of scholars and its claim to the "intellectual property" created by staff and students. All students who join HKUST are therefore committed to an Academic Honor Code. (<https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/academic-integrity>)

What happens if you are caught cheating?

The Student Disciplinary Committee can take away your eligibility for a degree; suspend you from the University, or simply dismiss you from the University.

(<https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/what-happens-if-you-are-caught-cheating>)

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Teaching Assistant: Ms Astor FOK (Email: ecastor@ust.hk)
Office: LSK 6066
Office Hour: By appointment

Tutorial hour: Monday 12:00pm – 12:50pm
Tutorial room: LSK 1033