

ECON 4244

ECONOMICS OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR

Semester: Spring 2023

Lecture time: Monday and Wednesday 9:00am – 10:20am

Lecture room: CYTG009B

Office hours: open-door policy

Homepage address: <https://canvas.ust.hk/courses/55570>

Credits: 4

Lecturer: Prof. S. F. Leung

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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

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

1. be critical and creative thinkers who make effective decisions supported by appropriate analytical techniques
2. demonstrate effective leadership and English communication skills when solving business problems
3. demonstrate a broad understanding of business functions and in-depth knowledge of their major
4. understand their ethical and social responsibilities in local and global contexts

TEACHING APPROACH

This course is delivered primarily through lectures and tutorials. *Due to time limitation, some of the tutorials will be used as lectures.* Students are expected to attend class and tutorial regularly and on time, and to participate actively in class/tutorial discussion, which plays a major role in learning. A considerable amount of time will be devoted to class/tutorial discussion. Videos (documentary and movie clips) are shown from time to time.

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITES

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

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	3%
Four homework assignments (6% each)	24%
Midterm (Mar 15, 2024)	12%
Final exam	58%

HOMEWORK

There will be four 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:	Friday 6:00pm – 6:50pm
Tutorial room:	LSK 1033

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

Students often ask professors to write recommendation or reference letters for them in their job or graduate school applications. After many years of hard work, we have established a very good reputation for our programs and students. Good grades are neither necessary nor sufficient for strong recommendation letters. Nevertheless, good grades make it easier for professors to write strong recommendation letters.