

(REVISED)

ECON 4474
Hong Kong's Economy
(Spring 2025)

Basic Information: This one-semester course is divided into two parts: (A) lectures /seminars on some salient aspects of the Hong Kong economy, and (B) a research project. Part (A) contributes to 50% of the final grade; Part (B) 40%; and class participation 10%. The specific intended learning goals and objectives are presented at the end of this course outline.

Lectures/Seminars: 10:30-11:50 Tuesdays and Thursdays

Tutorials: 18:00-18:50 Thursdays

Instructor: Prof. Yiu-Kwan FAN

Office: Room LSK 6075

Office Hours: By appointment (**Email:** ykfan@ust.hk)

Teaching Assistant: Peter TSUI (**Email:** ecpeter@ust.hk; **Office:** Room LSK 6066)

Class Website: <https://canvas.ust.hk/>

PART A: LECTURES / SEMINARS (50% of the course grade)

Requirements: Students are expected to **attend all the lectures/seminars and tutorials**, and **actively participate** in class discussions (**attendance will be recorded**). Tutorials may be used for supplementary seminars, guest lectures and project presentation. There will be a **FINAL EXAM on 15 April 2025**, which will contribute to **50%** of the course grade.

Syllabus:

- 1) **The Big Picture: Government Spending and Revenue**
- 2) **Human Resources and Education**
- 3) **Land Supply and Housing Markets**
- 4) **The Monetary System and the Financial Sector**
- 5) **Income Distribution and the Political Economy**
- 6) **Economic Growth and the Greater Bay Area**

Readings:

There is no required textbook for this course. You will have to rely heavily on the lecture notes, suggested readings and your own research.

PART B: RESEARCH PROJECT (40% of the course grade)

Early in the semester, you will organize yourselves into study groups, the optimal size of which is 3 people. You should submit the names of your group members no later than **15 February 2025**. Each group will have to choose a topic related to the Hong Kong economy and write a term paper based on **original research**. The topic chosen must be approved by Prof. Fan **on or before 20 February 2025**. Students, individually or in a group, are encouraged to discuss with Prof. Fan about possible topics by appointment and/or through email.

A research plan with a list of readings and source materials is required to be submitted by each group to Prof. Fan **on or before 13 March 2025**. Students are encouraged to seek advice and assistance from the Teaching Assistant on methodological and technical issues they may encounter when conducting their projects.

A draft term paper (soft copy) is due at **23:59 on 17 April 2025**. The submitted papers will be posted on the class website.

Presentation: During the lecture classes (**and** tutorial sessions if deemed necessary) from **22 April to 8 May 2025**, the groups will be scheduled to present the major findings of their projects.

All students are expected to **attend every presentation**, and **should have read the draft term paper of the project to be presented (attendance will be recorded)**. Every student is expected to **actively participate** in the discussion and **critically comment** on the papers of others, and will be **assessed for his/her degree and quality of participation**.

The Term Paper (one soft copy) is due at **23:59, Thursday 29 May 2025**. The maximum length of the text is **4,000 words** (*excluding* appendices, references and footnotes). The paper may include tables, diagrams, research findings and any other relevant materials as appendices. References must be listed at the end of the paper, and footnotes must be inserted at appropriate places.

Grading policy:

<u>Assessment Activities</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Weighting</u>
Title & framework of research project	20 Feb 2025	0%
A research plan & list of readings/source materials	13 March 2025	15%
Draft term paper	17 Apr 2025	30%
Project presentation, Q&A	22 Apr–8 May 2025	25%
The Term Paper	29 May 2025	30%

All members in the group will receive the same grade for the group Term Paper. Prof. Fan will not deal with the free-rider problem if it arises.

Satisfactory completion of the research project in this course fulfils the ECON4670 requirement for BBA ECON, BSc ECOF and BSc MAEC programs.

Learning Goals & Objectives

Goal 1: Graduates will be critical and creative thinkers who make effective decisions supported by appropriate analytical techniques.

Objectives: Graduates will:

1. Analyze and solve problems using appropriate analytical techniques.
2. Demonstrate proficiency in using IT applications in business and management.
3. Locate, gather, organize and evaluate information using appropriate information technology and systems.

Goal 2: Graduates will demonstrate effective leadership and English communication skills when solving business problems.

Objectives: Graduates will:

1. Collaborate and lead positively by actively seeking and engaging in discussion of the views of others.
2. Deliver business problems analyses and ideas to stakeholders in English effectively.

Goal 3: Graduates will demonstrate a broad understanding of business functions and in-depth knowledge of their major.

Objectives: Graduates will:

1. Demonstrate a broad understanding of different business functions and domains to formulate integrated solutions.
2. Demonstrate substantial knowledge of their business major to solve business problems.

Goal 4: Graduates will understand their ethical and social responsibilities in local and global contexts.

Objectives: Graduates will:

1. Identify ethical and social considerations in business issues and decisions.
2. Apply business knowledge to deliver positive business and social impacts at local and international levels.