

ECON 4244

ECONOMICS OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR

Semester: Spring 2022
Lecture time: Monday & Wednesday 12:00nn – 1:20pm
Lecture room: MB 4504
Office hours: open-door policy
Homepage address: <https://canvas.ust.hk/courses/42432>

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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. 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	1%
Three homework assignments	18%
Essay	15%
Final exam	63%

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

You are required to follow the classroom conduct stipulated by the University. Details are provided on the course homepage.

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Teaching Assistant: Ms Astor Fok (Email: ecastor@ust.hk)
Office: LSK 6066
Office Hour: By appointment
Tutorial hour: Thursday 10:00am – 10:50am
Tutorial room: LTH