

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS**

School of Economics and Finance

**ECON1001K: Introduction to Economics J
Spring 2010**

	<u>Instructor:</u>	<u>Teaching assistant</u>
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COURSE INFORMATION:

Course Overview

Economics is the study of human action. To understand how people can cooperate in social orders, and why they often cannot, we need to have a framework for understanding human action and its consequences. Economics provides one such framework. This is a course in microeconomics: the theory of consumers, prices, and markets. Microeconomics has been applied to wide range of issues, from what determines the price of consumer goods, to such things as how people vote, how much education they acquire, and how many children they have.

The purpose of this course is to actively engage students in the discovery of the economic content of everyday life. We will explore a range of topics and applications concerning how individuals make decisions about what to consume, produce, buy and sell, and how they interact with other consumers, producers, buyers and sellers in the marketplace. We will also address the role of government in the system, and policy areas such as regulation, antitrust, taxation, poverty and welfare.

Course Objectives

1. To develop microeconomic literacy.
2. To introduce the use of microeconomic models to analyze the choice of individuals, the supply decisions of firms, and the market outcome of supply and demand interaction.
3. To introduce the strategic behavior and interactions among individuals.
4. To gain an appreciation of the problems facing economic policymakers and the impact of regulations on the economy.
5. To prepare students for their subsequent study of courses in Economics and Finance.

Textbook

Frank, Robert H. and Ben S. Bernanke (2009): Principles of Microeconomics, 4th edition, McGraw-Hill.

COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (CILOs)

On completion of this course, students should be able to:

- CILO1. Explain observed decisions of firms, decisions of consumers, and market outcome.
- CILO2. Analyze the effect of government policy on decisions of firms, decisions of consumers, and market outcome.
- CILO3. Understand and evaluate the economic analyses of others.

TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES (TLAs)

- TLA1. Lectures:
Instructor will give lectures on major concepts and issues.
- TLA2. Homework:
Students will be asked to work on weekly online quizzes as a quick review of the concepts.
- TLA3. Consultation:
Both instructor and teaching assistant hold weekly consultation hours to address students' questions. Students are also encouraged to discuss questions with the instructor and TA by email or a forum in the class website.
- TLA4. Review sessions:
The TA will help students to review concepts.

ASSESSMENT

	Assessment	Weight
A1	Midterm #1 (<i>Date: February 27, 2010, Saturday; Time: 09:00-10:00a.m.</i>)	20%
	Midterm #2 (<i>Date: March 27, 2010, Saturday; Time: 09:00-10:00a.m.</i>)	30%
	Final exam (To be announced)	40%
A2	Weekly assignments	10%

Midterms: Usually lasts for one hour for midterm #1 and one and a half hours for midterm #2. Covers everything taught up to the date of test. The question paper will consist of multiple choice questions and short essay questions. The midterm exams will be held on Saturday: students should plan to arrive five minutes early on these dates to their assigned classroom in order that the designed duration is available to them for the exam. Students arriving late will not receive compensating time: all exams must be turned in to the proctor at the end of the exam. There will be **no make-up exams** to replace midterms that have been missed. **Students missing any midterm will receive a grade of zero** for the exam unless they provide documentation of illness.

Final exam: Usually lasts for two hours. Covers everything taught in the semester. About 50% will be multiple choices and 50% will be short essay questions. Date, time and venue will be arranged centrally by the university later in the semester.

Weekly assignments: A short on-line quiz (usually consisted of 10 multiple choices) will be posted in the course website on every Monday, which is to be due on the following Monday. A detailed solution will be posted in the course website afterwards.

Weekly tutorials: The weekly tutorials are optional. The TAs will discuss the solutions to the weekly assignments and/or review some lecture materials.

Relationship Among Intended Learning Outcome, Teaching And Learning Activities And Assessments

CLO	Teaching and Learning Activities (TLA)				Assessment (A)	
	1	2	3	4	1	2
1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

STANDARDS OF ASSESSMENT

Students can anticipate that grades will fall roughly along the following distribution:

Grade	Performance
A+, A, A-	20%
B+, B, B-	40%
C+, C, C-	30%
D+, D and F	10%

ACADEMIC CONDUCT

The University Regulations on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced! Please check the University Statement on plagiarism on the web: <http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism/>

Academic dishonesty is behavior in which a deliberately fraudulent misrepresentation is employed in an attempt to gain undeserved intellectual credit, either for oneself or for another. It includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following types of cases:

1. Plagiarism - The representation of someone else's ideas as if they are one's own. Where the arguments, data, designs, etc., of someone else are being used in a paper, report, oral presentation, or similar academic project, this fact must be made explicitly clear by citing the appropriate references. The references must fully indicate the extent to which any parts of the project are not one's own work. Paraphrasing of someone else's ideas is still using someone else's ideas, and must be acknowledged.
2. Unauthorized Collaboration on Out-of-Class Projects - The representation of work as solely one's own when in fact it is the result of a joint effort.

Where a candidate for a degree or other award uses the work of another person or persons without due acknowledgment:

1. The relevant Board of Examiners may impose a penalty in relation to the seriousness of the offence;
2. The relevant Board of Examiners may report the candidate to the Senate, where there is prima facie evidence of an intention to deceive and where sanctions beyond those in (1) might be invoked.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Topic
1	Thinking like an Economist (Chapter 1)
2	Comparative advantage: the basis for exchange (Chapter 2)
3	Supply and demand (Chapter 3)
4	Elasticity (Chapter 4)
5	Demand: the benefit side of the market (Chapter 5)
	Midterm #1 (<i>Date: February 27, 2010, Saturday; Time: 09:00-10:00a.m.</i>)
6	Perfectly competitive supply: the cost side of the market (Chapter 6)
7	Efficiency and exchange (Chapter 7)
8	The quest for profit and the invisible hand (Chapter 8)
9	Monopoly and other forms of imperfect competition (Chapter 9)
10	Strategic choice in oligopoly, monopolistic competition, and everyday life (Chapter 10)
	Midterm #2 (<i>Date: March 27, 2010, Saturday; Time: 09:00-10:00a.m.</i>)
11	Externalities and Property Rights (Chapter 11)
12	The Economics of Information (Chapter 12)