Semester 1
Instructor: Dr. Yujing Xu
Phone: 2859 1032
Email: yujingxu@hku.hk
Office: Room 1007 K K Leung Building
Lecture: Monday, 11am – 12:30pm in KK816

Semester 2
Instructor: Dr. Steven Xu
Phone: 2857 8501
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Office: Room 1113 K K Leung Building
Lecture: Friday, 2pm – 3:30pm in KK816

Course Information
This course is open to all 2nd year RPG students.

Course Description
This course is designed to help students transform from taking taught courses to independent research. The workshop is essentially a place for discussion. Students are expected to have presentations (1.5 hours) on papers representing the current research frontier in this course. Please refer to the reference list for suggested topics and papers. Presentation schedule will be arranged in the first meeting in each semester. Moreover, in the first meeting, the lecture will discuss methodology of economic science and methodology of research.

The course will focus on theoretical topics in the first semester and empirical topics in the second.

Faculty Goals
Goal 1: Acquisition and internalization of knowledge of the programme discipline
Goal 2: Application and integration of knowledge
Goal 3: Inculcating professionalism and leadership
Goal 4: Developing global outlook
Goal 5: Mastering communication skills

Course Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Aligned Faculty Goals</th>
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</table>

The University of Hong Kong
Faculty of Business and Economics
School of Economics and Finance
ECON6054A – Graduate Seminar (Economics)
2017-2018
CLO1 you will know the fundamental principles and economic
theories and firms  
Goals 1-5
CLO2 you will be able to use analytical tools to formulate
and solve economic problems  
Goals 1-5
CLO3 this is an important step before your PhD dissertation  
Goals 1-5
CLO4 you should be able to distinguish between major and
minor issues in research.  
Goals 1-5
CLO5 you should be able to identify and use relevant
information in research.  
Goals 1-5

Course Teaching and Learning Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Teaching and Learning Activities</th>
<th>Expected contact</th>
<th>Study Load (% of study)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TL1. Lectures: during with students will present papers and participate in discussions</td>
<td>36 hours</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TL2. One to two presentations each semester; students should prepare and deliver the presentations as if they are giving a seminar talk</td>
<td>40 hours</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TL3. Read papers presented in the lectures: students should read papers thoroughly before lectures</td>
<td>30 hours</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TL4. Literature review: students should submit one literature review by the end of the first semester</td>
<td>10 hours</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TL5. Research proposal: students should submit one research proposal by the end of the second semester</td>
<td>20 hours</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TL6. Consultation</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>140 hours</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Assessment Method

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Methods</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Aligned Course Learning Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1. Presentations</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>CL01, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2. Literature review</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>CL01, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3. Research proposal</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>CL01, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4. Lecture participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>CL01, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Standards for Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Grade Descriptors</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+, A, A-</td>
<td>Strong evidence of superb ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at all levels of learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+, B, B-</td>
<td>Strong evidence of the ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at all levels of learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+, C, C-</td>
<td>Evidence of adequate ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at all levels of learning.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
outcomes of the course at low levels of learning.

D+, D Evidence of basic fulfillment of some of the intended learning outcomes of the course.

F Little evidence of basic fulfillment of the intended learning outcomes of the course.

Assessment Rubrics for Each Assessment are the same as in the Course Grade Descriptors

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism and Misconduct
No plagiarism will be tolerated! 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:

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. 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:

The relevant Board of Examiners may impose a penalty in relation to the seriousness of the offence;
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.
Reference list

The following suggested reference list is to serve as a guideline and an example, rather than a constraint. You are encouraged to look at more recent publications in the AER, QJE, JPE, REStu, and Econometrica. You are also welcome to choose outside of this list. If you choose papers which are neither published in these journals nor in the attached list, you need to talk to instructor.

This list covers subjects in micro, macro theory, political economics, institutional economics, IO, labor, finance, housing, public finance, development, growth; and it includes theory and empirical work in all the above areas.

You should make mind which papers you want to present before the first meeting of the course. We will decide the presentation schedule in the 1st meeting.

I. Incentive theory as foundation of economics

Intrinsic incentives from identity and other spiritual sources


Incentives from trust, social norm, culture and cooperation


Glaeser, Edward L., David I. Laibson, Jose A. Scheinkman, Christie L. Souther,


II. Contract theory

**Classic Literature on Theory of Property Rights and Incomplete Contracts**


**Bounded Rationality and Incomplete Contracts**


**Contract Enforcement**


**III. Search and Matching Theory**


IV. Political Economics


Voting theory


**Political Economics in Non Democracy**


**Chinese political economic institution**


**Judicial Independence**


V. Bureaucracy and Fiscal Federalism


Olken, Benjamin A., “Monitoring Corruption: Evidence from a Field Experiment in


**VI. Development and Institution in Evolution**


**Institution and long run growth**


**VII. Finance**
Financial contracting and financial institution


Financial Development


**International Finance**


**Corporate Finance**


**Housing and Finance**


VIII. Labor economics


