THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
HKU BUSINESS SCHOOL

Course Code : ECON3293/FINA3391
Course Title : Reading Course
Credits : 6

Prerequisites for ECON3293 (Economics field):
ECON2210 Intermediate microeconomics; and
ECON2220 Intermediate macroeconomics; and
ECON2280 Introductory econometrics

Prerequisites for FINA3391 (Finance field):
ECON2280 Introductory econometrics; and
FINA2320 Investments and portfolio analysis; and
FINA2322 Derivatives

Remarks : Candidates intending to take this course shall complete an application form (please refer to p. 4-6 of this document).

Precursors : Nil

Course Description
This course consists of supervised reading and written work. Candidates may specialize in one topic under the supervision of faculty members of the Faculty of Business and Economics. For the Economics field (ECON3293), examples of topics are: the problem of social cost, investment in human capital, general equilibrium theory, empirical methods in international trade, international monetary relations, theories of saving and the East Asian economies, and current economic problems of Hong Kong.

Candidates must submit the title of their project within the first two weeks of the semester for approval by the BEcon/BEcon&Fin Programme Director of the Faculty. An original project paper is required in lieu of a written paper in the Examination. The project paper must be completed and presented not later than the first day of the assessment period for that semester. Candidates shall submit a statement that the project paper represent their own work (or in the case of joint work, a statement countersigned by their co-worker(s), which shows the degree of their work) undertaken after the registration in the course.

Course learning outcomes (CLOs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLOs</th>
<th>Aligned Faculty Goals*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLO 1. Develop specific knowledge and skills within the areas negotiated with the supervisor.</td>
<td>Goal #1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLO 2. Develop skills in producing annotated notes, bibliographies, and tracking publication sources and lineages in academic thought.</td>
<td>Goal #3, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLO 3. Develop ability to combine independent study</td>
<td>Goal #3, 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
with critical analysis and comparative interpretations of texts of the discipline.

CLO 4. Develop proficiency on how to present large bodies of scientific writings in a systematic way.

*Faculty Goals are as follows:
  - 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 Teaching and Learning Activities (TLA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Teaching and Learning Activities</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
<th>Study Load (% of study)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TLA 1. Consultation with supervisor</td>
<td>Students are required to meet with their supervisor on a regular basis to report their progress and seek advice.</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLA 2. Self study</td>
<td>Students are required to conduct research on their own.</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 100%

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of assessment tasks/activities</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Aligned Course Learning Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AT 1. Project paper</td>
<td>Students are required to submit a project paper of 10,000 words together with a Turnitin report for assessment.</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>CLO 1-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Standard of Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
<th>Grade Definitions</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Strong evidence of superb ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at all levels of learning: describe, apply, evaluate, and synthesis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Strong evidence of the ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at all levels of learning: describe, apply, evaluate, and synthesis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>Evidence of adequate ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at low levels of learning such as describe and apply but not at high levels of learning such as evaluate and synthesis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Score</td>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Evidence of basic familiarity with the subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>Little evidence of basic familiarity with the subject.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment Rubrics for Each Assessment: same as the above course grade descriptors.
To: BEcon/B Econ&Fin Programme Director  
HKU Business School, The University of Hong Kong

RE: Reading Course  
ECON3293 (Economics field) / FINA3391 (Finance field)

A. To be completed by student

I have read the “Important Notes to Students” on this form. I would like to submit my application for enrolment in the Reading Course (course code: ____________) for the first / second/ summer* semester of ____________ (academic year).

Name of Student: _______________  Univ. No.: ___________  Curriculum: __________

Contact Tel. No.: _______________  Email: ____________________________________________

Topic of study for the paper: ______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

(Copy of transcript or grades of all courses taken at HKU must be attached to this form.)

Signature of Student:_________________________ Date: _______________________

B. To be completed by supervisor

I have read the “Important Notes to Supervisors” on this form. I agree to be the supervisor of the above student in the Reading Course.

Name of Supervisor:____________________ Signature of Supervisor: ________________

C. For Faculty’s use only

Decision by BEcon/B Econ&Fin Programme Director: Approved/ Disapproved*  
*delete where appropriate

Remarks: ______________________________________________________________________

Signature: ___________________________ Date: _______________________

Remarks: ______________________________________________________________________

Signature: ___________________________ Date: _______________________
D. **Important Notes to Students**

1. The course consists of supervised reading and written work. It is the sole responsibility of the student to identify a full-time faculty member from the HKU Business School who is willing to serve as his/her supervising professor.

2. You may specialize in one topic under the supervision of faculty members of the HKU Business School. You are advised to contact/meet with your supervisor at least once per two weeks to update your research progress, and to get some advices and to make sure your work is on the right track. An original project paper is required in lieu of a written paper in the Examination.


4. The prerequisite for FINA3391 (Finance field): ECON2280 Introductory econometrics, FINA2322 Derivatives, and FINA2320 Investment and portfolio analysis.

5. If you intend to take this course, you should enroll the course in the Student Information System during the course enrolment period or add-drop period in the 1st or 2nd semester or summer semester. In addition, this form must be completed, together with a copy of your transcript, and returned to the Area Admin Office (Room 1305, K. K. Leung Building) by 4:00 pm, August 11, 2020 (end of course selection period) or 4:00 pm, September 15, 2020 (end of add-drop period) for enrolment in the 1st semester; or 4:00 pm, February 1, 2021 (end of add-drop period) for enrolment in the 2nd semester; or 4:00 pm, June 22, 2021 (end of add-drop period) for enrolment in the summer semester. Failure to return this form will result in disapproval of course enrolment.

6. The number of words required for a project paper is 10,000. You are suggested to submit a preliminary version of your project paper to your supervisor at least two weeks before the submission deadline which would allow sufficient time for your supervisor to give comments for further improvement of your paper.

7. The deadline for submission of the paper will be the first day of assessment period of the enrolled semester (i.e. December 8, 2020 in the 1st semester, or May 10, 2021 in the 2nd semester, or August 16, 2021 in the summer semester). Apart from the project paper, you are also required to submit a Turnitin report. Please submit hard copy of the two documents to Justin at the Area Admin Office (Room 1305, K.K. Leung Building) for onward submission to the supervisor for grading.

8. **Instructions of generating the Turnitin Report**

   (a) Visit the Library's website at [http://lib.hku.hk/turnitin/students.html](http://lib.hku.hk/turnitin/students.html) for information of the account set-up and user manual.

   (b) Enter the Turnitin webpage [http://www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)
(c) Create your student account with the following information:

- Class ID: 26235641  
  (Effective period: August 31, 2020 – August 31, 2021)
- Class Name: UG Papers 2020-2021
- Enrollment Password: ug20202021

(d) Upload the final version of your paper to the Turnitin system.

(e) Generate the Turnitin Report.

(f) Print out the Turnitin Report, and submit it together with your paper to Justin at the Area Admin Office (Room 1305, K.K. Leung Building).

E. Important Notes to Supervisors

1. The course offers opportunities for students to undertake research and to write up a project paper under the supervision of faculty members of the HKU Business School.

2. In completion of the Reading course, students are required to submit a project paper of 10,000 words together with a Turnitin report for assessment.

3. Responsibilities of Supervisors:

   (a) Help the student to define the topic of study for the project paper;

   (b) Provide close guidance to the student and monitor the student’s progress through to completion of the Reading course;

   (c) Have regular meetings with the student at which all matters relating to the project paper can be discussed;

   (d) Give comments on the preliminary version of the project paper to help the student to further improve the paper; and

   (e) Give a final grade on the project paper and return the paper together with the Turnitin report to Justin in the Area Admin Office (Room 1305, K.K. Leung Building) for the School’s retention. The deadline for submission of the grade will be the last day of the assessment period of the enrolled semester (i.e. December 23, 2020 in the 1st semester, or May 29, 2021 in the 2nd semester, or August 21, 2021 in the summer semester).

4. Please note that Justin in the Area Administration Office is responsible for collecting the project paper and the Turnitin report from students. He will then pass the paper to the respective supervisor for grading.