

Course Outline

EE406 Contemporary Economic Issues

Section 046402; Semester 2/2021 (January 10th – May 7th, 2022)

Number of Credit: 3 (3-0-6)

Prerequisite: EE211 and EE212

Course Description:

EE406 is a general introduction to the subject matter and methods of economics, through the investigation of specific contemporary economic issues such as economic growth, inequality, poverty, and environmental deterioration.

Course Objectives:

This course aims to allow students to apply acquired knowledge of micro- and macroeconomics, from EE211 and EE212 respectively, to examine and understand selected “contemporary economic issues,” as well as to appreciate the interaction between economics and other branches of knowledge on those issues. Therefore, a more interdisciplinary approach to economic analysis shall be expected. By doing so, we aim to

1. equip students with basic skills to apply economic tools to understand economic issues using definitions, principles, measurement, and observation;
2. allow students to recognise the importance of other fields of study on the same issues and potential cross-discipline collaboration;
3. train students on academic writing and presentation through class assignments.

Class Time and Logistic

Class day: Every Wednesday and Friday

Class time: 9.30 – 11.00 hrs

Teaching Materials Platform: Primary platform is BE Moodle and the Enrollment Key is 9105.

Meeting Platform: Online via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/97320025105>; Meeting ID: 973 2002 5105; Hybrid where situation permitted.

Instructor: Supruet Thavornnyutikarn

Office Hours: Wednesday 13.00-15.00 or by appointment

Email: supruet@econ.tu.ac.th

Suggested Readings: Since there are several issues to be covered, the reading materials will be provided separately.

Assessments: According to the preliminary survey, the assessment would be as follow:

Examination:

Midterm Examination	15	percent
Final Examination	20	percent

Coursework:

Individual Paper on Each Issue (10 percent per each issue)	50	percent
Discussion (3 percent per each issue)	15	percent

Tentative Class Schedule: From the preliminary survey, the selected issues that would be covered this term are 1) limit of rationality and coordination problems; 2) problems and consequences of COVID-19; 3) inequality and poverty; 4) gender issues; and 5) market in cyberspace.

Week 1 (12/14 Jan):	Introduction and Scene Setting
Week 2-3 (19/21/26/28 Jan):	Rationality and Economics *Irrational Behaviour *Norms and Institutions *Collective Behaviour and Coordination
Week 4-5 (2/4/9/11 Feb):	Problems and Consequences of COVID-19 *Economic Impacts of COVID-19 *COVID-19 Contagion and Preventions *Inequalities in Preventions and Healthcare *Upside Gains from COVID-19
Week 6-7 (16/18/23/25 Feb):	Inequality and Poverty *Is inequality a social structural problem? *Social institutions *Severity of Poverty and Subordination of the Poors *Being poor on purpose: economic rent seeking
Midterm Examination	<u>Wednesday, March 2, 2022 09.00-11.00 hrs.</u>
Week 9-10 (9/11/16/18 Mar):	Gender Issues in Economics *Dichotomy of Gender *Wage differences & other gender inequalities *Marriage and Family with Gender Diversity *Socialisation of Multi-gender society
Week 11-12 (23/25/30 Mar/1 Apr):	Market in Cyberspace *Property rights and contract in cyberspace *Roles of government in the virtual world *Enforceability of virtual market transactions *Algorithm/AI influences on human behaviour
Week 13-14 (6/8/13/15 Apr):	Songkran Holidays
Week 15-16 (20/22/27/29 Apr):	Another issue that may come up during the term
Week 17	Wrap-up
Final Examination	<u>Monday, May 23, 2022 13.30-16.30 hrs.</u>