



B.E. International Program

Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University



Course Outline

TU124 Society and Economy (Section 046401)

Semester 1/2012 (August 14 – December 1, 2012)

Number of credits: 3 credits

Lecture Time: Wednesdays, 14.00 – 17.00 hrs

Lecture Venue: Room 303, Faculty of Economics

Instructor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Euamporn Phijaisanit

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Tel. 02 613 2415, Fax. 02 224 9428

Office hours: Wednesdays, 12.45- 14.00 hrs or by e-mail appointment

Course Website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/soc-econ>

Group E-mail: soc-econ@yahoogroups.com

Course Description:

Aside from guidance lectures, self-reading before the class and *interactive* discussions are necessarily required in essence. Students are portrayed a vast landscape relationship between the crucial components making up the society and the economy today. Lecture sequences leading through a series of evolutionary development of social and economic ideologies and institutions, and selected contemporary issues are expected to supplement students in better evaluating the socio-economic multi-dimensional problems and policies in a more holistic manner.

It must attentively be noted that this course aims at paving a “big map” to show what essentially *there* are that could be ‘explored’ in the inter-linkages between social, cultural, political and economic factors. It also aims at exercising thoughts using some basic economic rationale. In order to “learn” from this course, it is the students’ own task to use this map to further pursue their outside-classroom self-study through reading, watching, observing, writing and, most importantly, synthesising all the scattered pieces of information collected. Please note that ALL students are required to register in the course website to upload assignments, download course materials and receive important notifications.

Prerequisites: -

Course Objectives (In fact, *Our Mission together!*):

1. Students study the inter-relationship between the crucial components making up the society and economy in a multi-dimensional approach.
2. Students learn to formulate their ideas and thinking through reading, class discussion, and information synthesizing.
3. Students learn to orally express their ideas and write good academic essays.

Main Text:

Phijaisanit, E. (2008) *Understanding the Essence of Economics through the Context of*

Societal Events. Textbook for the Course “Society and Economy” Bachelor of Economics (BE) International Program, Thammasat University (downloadable from the course website)

Teaching Plan:

Topic 1. Introduction to the Study of Society and Economy

- ❑ Course overview
- ❑ The economic problem as one of the basic survival problems
- ❑ Economics: a crucial component in social sciences
- ❑ General methodology
- ❑ Society and economy inter-linkages

Reading:

Phijaisanit, Ch 1-2

Topic 2. Urbanisation and Economic Expansion

- ❑ Rationale framework of societal changes
- ❑ Characteristics, norms and values of the ancient-type society
- ❑ Influencing factors to changes
- ❑ New characteristics, norms and values
- ❑ Philosophy of trade – an account of the phenomena

 Reading:

Phijaisanit, Ch 3

 Extra:

Akira, S. (1996) *Capital accumulation in Thailand 1855-1985*. Chiangmai: Silkworm

Ch2.1: The Bowring Treaty pp. 16-38; Ch 3: The rise of capitalist groups: 1855-1932 pp. 42-98

Topic 3. Looking Through Industrialisation

- ❑ The important industrial turning point
- ❑ Theoretical perspectives on the Industrial Revolution
- ❑ Impacts of technology
- ❑ Economies of scale production
- ❑ Changes in social and market structure
- ❑ Industrialisation in developing countries: the case of Thailand in brief

 Reading:

Phijaisanit, Ch 4

 Extra:

Siriprachai, S. (1997) “Industrialisation and inequality in Thailand,” in J. D. Schmidt et al (eds) *Social changes in Southeast Asia*. (London: Longman), pp 183-205

Warr, P. (1993) “The Thai economy,” in Warr, P. (ed) *The Thai economy in transition*, Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-80

Topic 4. Recognising Capitalism across Time

- ❑ Feudal heritage revisited
- ❑ The common market and trade
- ❑ Corporatism
- ❑ Structural changes
- ❑ Prosperity and convergence
- ❑ Conscious capitalism



Reading:

Phijaisanit, Ch 5



Film:

The story of stuff, Annie Leonard (<http://www.storyofstuff.org>)

--- Mid-term Break---

Topic 5. Issues of Socialism

- ❑ Primal themes of socialism
- ❑ The historic shift
- ❑ The Soviet system in retrospect
- ❑ Transition to capitalism
- ❑ The future of socialism



Reading:

Phijaisanit, Ch 6



Extra:

Einstein, A. (1998) “Why Socialism?” *Monthly Review*, Vol. 50 No. 1, May

Moore, S. and F. Engels, trans. (1969) *Manifesto of the Communist Party*. Moscow:

Progress Publisher (recommended for those with abundance of extra time!)

Topic 6. Role of the Public Sector & Social Welfare Provisions

- ❑ Overview of the basic role of the public sector
- ❑ Economic rationale for government
- ❑ Musgrave's classification of the state
- ❑ Discussion of Asian style democracy: Case of 1997 Asian Economic Crisis
- ❑ Overview of Social Welfare Provisions in Thailand

 Reading:

Phijaisanit, Ch 7 and additional powerpoint handout (to be uploaded in the course website)

 Extra:

Siamwalla, A. (2000) "The Anatomy of Thai Economic Crisis," Thailand Development Institute (TDRI), May

Stiglitz, J. E. *Economics of the public sector* (any edition), London: W.W. Norton

Ch1: The public sector in a mixed economy, Ch3: The economic rationale for government

Tasarika, E. (2004) "A recapitulation of Asian financial crisis and institutional factors,"

Thammasat Economic Journal, Vol 22 (1), March

Topic 7. Poverty and Inequality

- ❑ The concept of poverty
- ❑ The concept of inequality
- ❑ Rural-urban aspects of poverty and inequality
- ❑ Poverty cases in Asia
- ❑ Growth, inequality and poverty inter-relationship

 Reading:

Phijaisanit, Ch 8

Topic 8. Aspects of Globalisation

- ❑ Defining globalisation
- ❑ Globalisation eras
- ❑ Catalysts of globalisation
- ❑ Emerging market economies
- ❑ Impacts of globalisation
- ❑ Impacts of globalisation on primitive local communities
- ❑ Globalisation, consumerism, environment and our well-being

 Film:

The story of change, The story of cap & trade (<http://www.storyofstuff.org>)

 Reading:

Phijaisanit, Ch 9

 Extra:

Sachs, J. (1996) “Globalisation and Employment,” Public Lecture, Geneva, 18 March,

International Labour Organisation: International Institute for Labour Studies

Sussangkarn, C. (2000) “Globalisation and institution building,” *TDRI Quarterly*

Topic 9. Rethinking Social Capital and Eco-system

- ❑ Introduction: The broad scenario
- ❑ The groundwork ideas of social capital and its linkage to eco-tourism
- ❑ Social capital in Thailand
- ❑ Corporate Social Responsibility

 Reading:

Phijaisanit, Ch 10 and additional powerpoint handout (to be uploaded in the course website)

 Extra:

Tasarika, E. (2001) “Community values and conservation: a case study in Ayudhya province,” *Thammasat Economic Journal*, Vol. 20, no. 4, December 2002

TU 124 Class Activities

Week1: Topic 1

Week 2: Topic 2

Week 3: Group Debates: Group 1 vs Group 2; Group 3 vs Group 4

Week 4: Group Debates: Group 5 vs Group 6; Group 7 vs Group 8

Week 5: Topic 3

Week 6: Topic 4

Week 7: Film, Case Studies and Group Exercises

(Reminder: Individual Term Paper Deadline on Tuesday, 25 Sept 2012, 16.30hr.!)

Week 8: Mid-term Week (No Class)

Week 9: Topic 5

Week 10: Topic 6

Week 11: Group Debates: Group 1 vs Group 2; Group 3 vs Group 4

Week 12: Group Debates: Group 5 vs Group 6; Group 7 vs Group 8

Week 13: Topic 7

Week 14: Topic 8

Week 15: Topic 9

Week 16: Films, Case Studies and Group Exercises

Debate Rules:

1. Each group takes turn to talk for 5 minutes each round.
2. There are 4 rounds.
3. Audiences cast vote for the group that presented most convincing arguments
4. Count the votes to see the winner group

Wednesday, 29 August 2012

Debate # 1: "If nature were unlimited, then the concept of "scarcity" would NOT exist"

Group 1: Defending the motion: Agree with the above statement

Group 2: Against the motion: Disagree with the above statement

Debate # 2: "If humankind behavior were completely unpredictable, life insurance would not be a profitable business"

Group 3: Defending the motion: Agree with the above statement

Group 4: Against the motion: Disagree with the above statement

Wednesday, 5 September 2012

Debate #3: "Power tends to come after wealth in our modern society"

Group 5: Defending the motion: Agree with the above statement

Group 6: Against the motion: Disagree with the above statement

Debate #4: "Trading merchants' activities were disruptive to the then existing static feudal life"

Group 7: Defending the motion: Agree with the above statement

Group 8: Against the motion: Disagree with the above statement

Wednesday, 24 October 2012

Debate #5: "State should force people to consume minimally and transfer resources to capital building"

Group 1: Defending the motion: Agree with the above statement

Group 2: Against the motion: Disagree with the above statement

Debate #6: “Capitalism promotes selfishness”

Group 3: Defending the motion: Agree with the above statement

Group 4: Against the motion: Disagree with the above statement

Wednesday, 31 October 2012

Debate #7: “Healthcare should be free for all in Thailand”

Group 5: Defending the motion: Agree with the above statement

Group 6: Against the motion: Disagree with the above statement

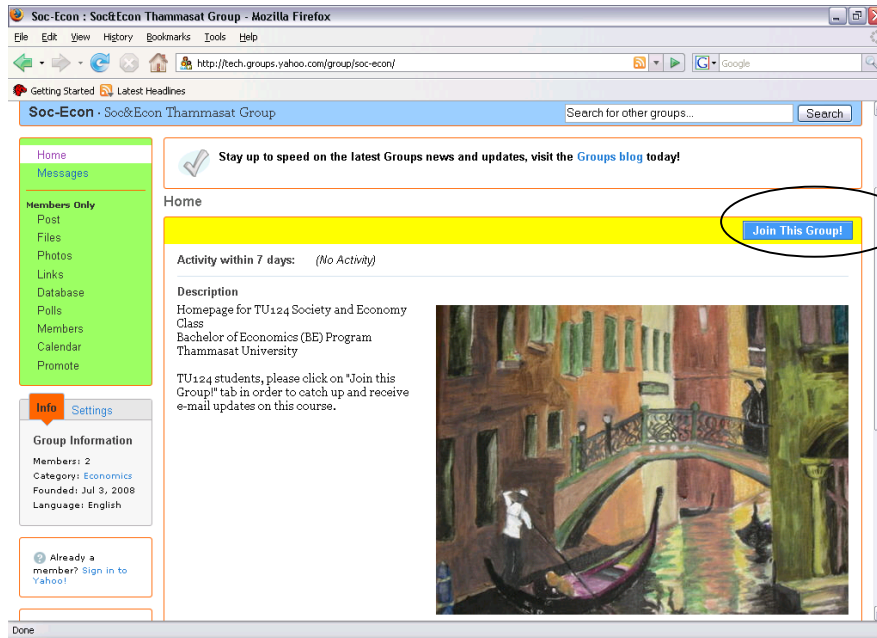
Debate #8: “Unemployment insurance makes people lazy and, therefore, harms the economy”

Group 7: Defending the motion: Agree with the above statement

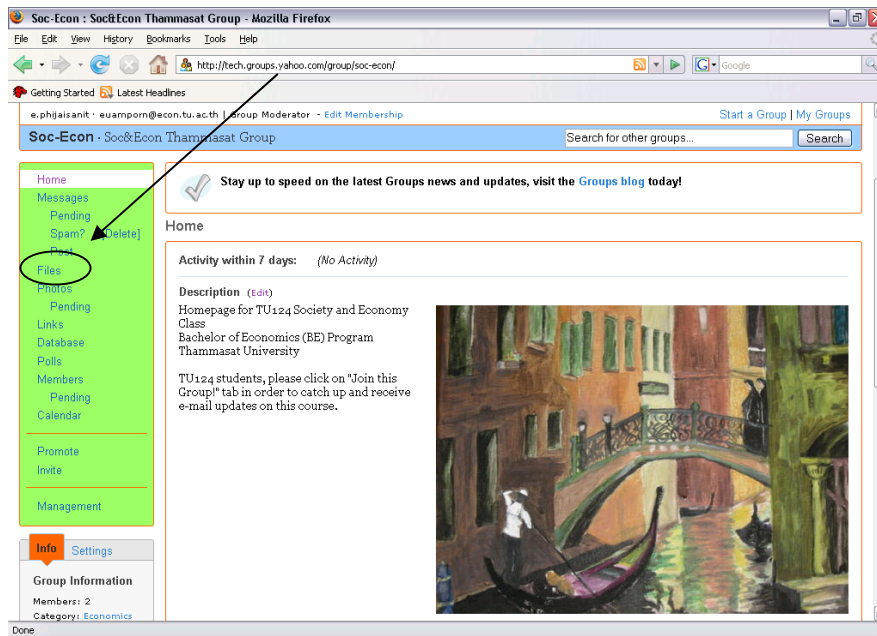
Group 8: Against the motion: Disagree with the above statement

Guideline for Registering at the Course Website

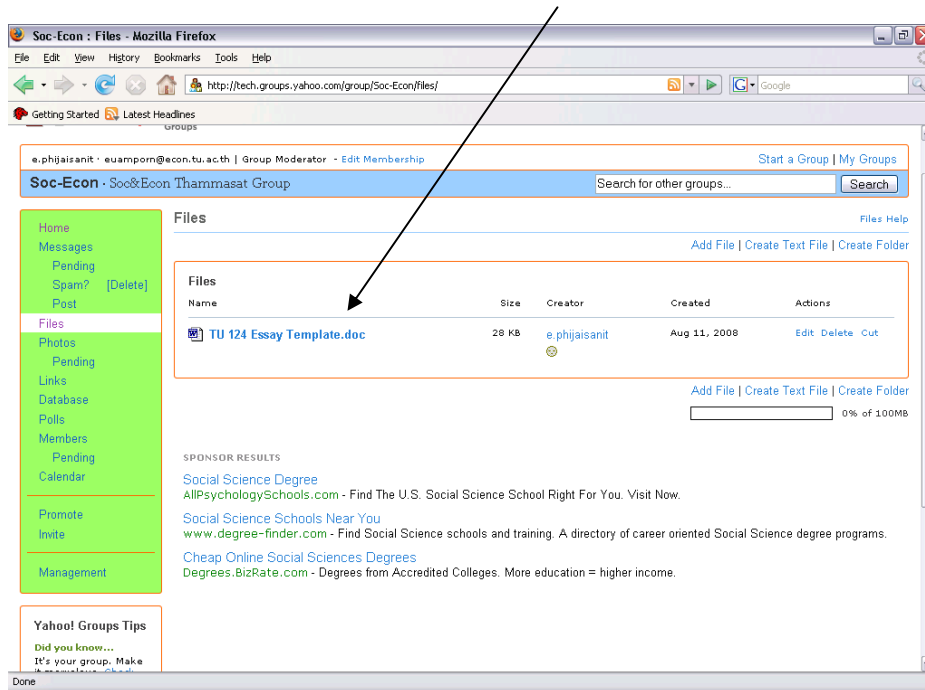
1. Type the Course Website URL using your internet browser (such as Internet Explorer or Netscape, etc). When you see this screen, click on “Join this Group!”. If you do not have yahoo account, you will have to register for one. Then you can have access to the website.



2. Once you have registered, you may sign in and see this screen. To download the files for this course, click on “Files” on the left-hand corner.



3. Then, you will see the available files for this course. Please download these files, read them, do your homework and prepare for class discussion.



4. Later on, you may look around the website and, perhaps, may see your pictures in the “Photos” section, so watch out if you plan to sleep in class!



Assessment:

Group Debates and Exercises (See topics and dates on pages 7-8) 20%

Individual Term Paper (Deadline: **Tues, 25 Sept 2012, 16.30 hrs**)* 40%

Final Exam 40%

(Saturday, December 15, 2012, 13.30 – 16.30 hrs)

*Please submit your Term Papers at the BE Office by the deadline. The highest score for late submission is no higher than 50% of the total score. The instructions and template for the term paper can be downloaded from the course website.

Plagiarism in any form will automatically result in an “F” grade for any paper.

Important Dates:

Classes Begins	August 14, 2012
Adding and Dropping Courses	August 14 – 28, 2012
Midterm Exam Period	October 1 – 6, 2012 (No Lectures)
Midterm Exam	-
Course Withdrawal with “W”	October 17 – 22, 2012
Class Ends	December 1, 2012
Final Exam	December 15, 2012 (13.30 – 16.30 hrs)
