

Course Outline

EE406 Contemporary Economic Issues

Semester 1/2021 (9 August – 27 November 2021)

Number of credits:	3 credits (3-0-6)	
Lecture Time:	Section 046401: Wednesdays and Fridays, 09.30 – 11.00 hours Section 046402: Wednesdays and Fridays, 09.30 – 11.00 hours	
Lecture Venue:	Section 046401:	Zoom meeting ID Passcode
	Section 046402:	Zoom meeting ID 992 0198 8792 Passcode 112117
Instructor:	Section 046401:	Asst. Prof. Dr. Nattapong Puttanapong Email: nattapong@econ.tu.ac.th
	Section 046402:	Ajarn Thanasak Jenmana Email: jenmana@econ.tu.ac.th

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 provide students with a general knowledge about “contemporary” economic issues such as that of inequality, poverty, labour market institutions, social welfare, and environmental deterioration. To do so, the course will spend its focus on epidemics, and the significance of its relationship to the economy, politics, as well as historical changes.

The course is therefore naturally quite a departure from orthodox economics – and offer a more interdisciplinary approach to economic analyses. By doing so, we aim to

1. Equip students with tools to understand economic issues using definitions, principles, measurement, and observation;
2. Make students acquainted with economic data such as poverty rate, inequality indicators, labor market statistics, and budgetary statistics, and other indicators concerning public health;
3. Train students on academic writing and presentation through class assignments and guide the development of research methods.

Prerequisites: EE211 and EE212

Evaluation:

Midterm examination	30%
Group assignment	30%
- progress report I	
- progress report II	
- final paper	
Presentation	10%
Final examination	30%
Mid-Term Examination	Wednesday 29 September 2021 Time: 9.00-11.00
Final Examination	Saturday 11 December 2021 Time: 13.30-16.00

Main Text:

Class slides and references

Snowden, Frank M. (2019). *Epidemics and Society: From the Black Death to the Present*, Yale University Press. ProQuest Ebook Central, retrieved from <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/thammasat-ebooks/detail.action?docID=5910244>.

Recommended Text

Diamond, Jared. (1997). *Gun, Germs, and Steel: the Fates of Human Societies*. W. W. Norton & Company. *Additional mandatory and suggested reading lists under each chapter will be provided via be-moodle.*

Class Policies:

Attendance is strongly encouraged. It is the responsibility of the students to obtain any information announced in the class. Ignorance of such information due to absence of class is not a valid defence.

If a student has any question about the lecture, it is highly encouraged to raise them in class. For section 046402-03, please do not hesitate to consult the lecturer during office hours which is on Monday 9-11 am. For office hour visits, appointments must be made the Friday before, at the latest.

Exam materials are cumulative – meaning that in order to perform well in the finals, students must have good understanding of the materials covered throughout the course. Make-up examinations are not permitted unless; (i) in case of illness – you need to provide the faculty with the doctor’s medical note; (ii) family emergency – case-by-case basis.

Students are encouraged to work together and exchange ideas outside of class. However, plagiarism and cheating will be treated seriously with disciplinary actions. Thammasat University and our faculty take academic integrity extremely seriously, and there will be academic consequences if you are found possibly guilty of misconducts. Please refer to the university guidelines if you have any questions.

Any changes to the course outline (if any) will be announced in the class or uploaded on BE-moodle.

Expected Learning Outcomes:**1. Morality and Ethics**

Applicability	Expected Learning Outcomes
●	1.1 Students demonstrate integrity.
○	1.2 Students prioritize social and public benefits over personal ones.
●	1.3 Students are punctual and comply with the code of conduct of the institution and society at large.
○	1.4 Students are responsible and accountable to society, the nation, and the subject of economics.
○	1.5 Students realize the cultural and environmental value of the sustainable society.

2. Knowledge

Applicability	Expected Learning Outcomes
●	2.1 Students know and understand modern economics principles and theories, and are up to date with new developments.
●	2.2 Students know and understand Thai and global economic structure, and the importance of major international economic events.
●	2.3 Students know and understand instruments of economic analysis.
●	2.4 Students know and understand applied fields in economics, including monetary, public, international, business, natural resource and environmental, industrial, agricultural, cooperative, political, developmental, and entrepreneurial economics as well as agribusiness.
○	2.5 Students are informed about related fields including sociology, business administration, education, law policy, and science.

3. Intellectual Development

Applicability	Expected Learning Outcomes
●	3.1 Students have developed individual critical thinking.
●	3.2 Students are sufficiently trained in research skills.
●	3.3 Students demonstrate an ability to analyze and synthesize data, as well as appropriately integrate economics concepts to understand causes of current economic problems in Thailand. Based on analysis and synthesis, students demonstrate an ability to propose policy guidelines to resolve problems.

4. Interpersonal Skills and Responsibilities

Applicability	Expected Learning Outcomes
●	4.1 Students are responsible for assigned tasks and work in groups effectively.
○	4.2 Students have problem-solving skills.
○	4.3 Students show leadership skills and team spirit.
●	4.4 Students are always improving themselves.
●	4.5 Students have good interpersonal skills, adapting and working under different conditions.

5. Quantitative Analysis, Communication and Information Technology

Applicability	Expected Learning Outcomes
●	5.1 Students select and apply appropriate statistical and mathematical methods for data processing, interpretation, conclusions, and recommendations to resolve problems.
●	5.2 Students communicate effectively and select appropriate presentation methods.
●	5.3 Students use information and communication technologies appropriately to gather data as well as process, interpret, and present results.

Teaching Plans

Date*	Topic	Reading
11 Aug	1. Introduction: Epidemics & Society (1.5 hours) 1.1) Why the focus on epidemics? 1.1.1) Epidemics as economic phenomena; 1.1.2) Economic consequences of epidemics; 1.2) General course outline & evaluation	
13, 18, 20, 25, 27 Aug	2. Globalisation & Epidemics (7.5 hours) 2.1) Globalisation as a cause of COVID-19 2.2) Globalisation as a cause of the Bubonic Plague 2.3) Globalisation after COVID-19	
1, 3, 8, 10, 15 Sep	3. Labour & Epidemics (7.5 hours) 3.1) Working condition as a cause of COVID-19 3.2) The Yellow Fever and working conditions of Slavery in Haiti 3.3) How the COVID-19 impact working conditions & labour market	
17, 22, 24 Sep	4. Environment & COVID-19 (6 hours) 4.1) How the misdirected relationship between human & nature causes COVID-19 4.2) Deforestation & Ebola 4.3) How the relationship between human and nature should be after COVID-19	
6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22 Oct	5. Poverty, Inequality, and Epidemics 5.1) Poverty as a cause of COVID-19 5.2) Cholera as a disease of the poor 5.3) Poverty & inequality after COVID-19	
27, 29 Oct, 3, 5,	6. Government mismanagement & Epidemics (6 hours) 6.1) How government mismanagements caused COVID-19 6.2) Bubonic Plague in Bombay 6.3) SARS in China and the Chinese Government 6.4) Policies and measures after COVID-19	
10, 12 Nov	7. World Order & COVID-19 (3 hours) 7.1) Smallpox & the Invasion of America 7.2) World Order after COVID-19	
17, 19, 24, 26 Nov	8. Group presentation (4.5 hours)	

*Dates are based on section 1 & 2

ACADEMIC CALENDAR & HOLIDAY SEMESTER 1/2021

Semester 1/2021 (August 9 - November 27, 2021)	
Classes Begin	August 9, 2021
Add-drop period	August 6 - 15, 2021
Tuition Fee Installment Plan For ID.61-63 only <i>(9 AM - 10.30 PM)</i>	#Round 1 (July 16 – 18, 2021) #Round 2 (August 30 – September 3, 2021) #Round 3 (September 20 – 22, 2021)
<i>H.M. Queen Sirikit The Queen Mother's Birthday*</i>	<i>August 12, 2021</i>
<i>Prince Mahidol Day*</i>	<i>September 24, 2021</i>
Mid-term Examination Period	September 27 - October 3, 2021
Withdrawal period with "W" on record	October 11 - November 15, 2021
<i>H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great Memorial Day*</i>	<i>October 13, 2021</i>
<i>Substitution for King Chulalongkorn's Day*</i>	<i>October 22, 2021</i>
<i>King Chulalongkorn's Day*</i>	<i>October 23, 2021</i>
Last day of class for Semester 1/2021	November 27, 2021
Final exam period	November 29-30, December 1-3, 7-9, 11-17, 2021
<i>H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great's Birthday*</i>	<i>December 5, 2021</i>
<i>Substitution for H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great's Birthday*</i>	<i>December 6, 2021</i>
<i>Constitution Day*</i>	<i>December 10, 2021</i>

Remark * Holiday, No classes during this period