

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS**

PhD Course Syllabus

Course Code/Title: [Course Code] **Organizational Economics and Business Strategy II**

Course Description: This course is the second of the two-course sequence of organizational economics for doctoral students. The two courses will prepare research students for further study in organizational economics as well as related areas such as institutional economics, business strategy and human resource management, corporate finance, and innovation and entrepreneurship. This is a seminar-based course and is organized around student presentation, class discussion, and faculty supervision. A list of topics and related research papers will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

Course Objectives: The primary purpose of the course is to help students transform to independent researchers. The course aims to improve students' abilities of critical thinking, presenting and communicating research ideas, carrying out research projects, and writing academic papers. By the end of the course, students are expected to produce an independent research project that has the potential to be a chapter of students' doctoral dissertation and turn into a publishable paper.

Pre-requisite: Organizational Economics and Business Strategy I or special approval by instructors for exceptional students

Assessment: 50% class performance; 50% term paper

Remarks: All PhD courses are non-credit-bearing and will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) On completion of this course, students should be able to:	Aligned PLOs*				
	1	2	3	4	5
1. Gain familiarity with frontier research in the area of organizational economics	X	X			X
2. Generate research ideas and initiate research projects	X	X	X		X
3. Carry out research projects	X	X	X	X	X
4. Comment and assess works related to organizations	X		X	X	X

***Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for Research Postgraduate Programme:**

1. Demonstrate critical understanding, at an advanced level, of up-to-date knowledge and research methodology of a particular field
2. Implement effective academic and personal strategies for carrying out research projects independently and ethically
3. Contribute original knowledge in response to issues in their specialist area
4. Communicate research findings at a diverse range of levels and through a variety of media
5. Evaluate one's own research in relation to important and latest issues in the field

COURSE DETAILS *(subject to change at instructor's discretion)*

Year/Semester: 2023-24, Second Semester

Time/Venue: 2:30-5:30 pm, Monday, KK910

Instructor: Jin Li and Yanhui Wu

Email: jli1@hku.hk yanhuiwu@hku.hk

Office: KKL-936 and KKL-931 (by appointment)

I. Teaching and Learning Activities

In-class and Out-of-class Activities <i>(e.g. lectures, class discussion, papers reading, proposal writing)</i>	Expected hour	% of student study effort
1. Class presentation	30	30%
2. Class discussion	20	20%
3. Paper reading	20	20%
4. Term paper	30	30%
Total	100	100%

II. Assessment

Assessment Components <i>(e.g. assignments, problem sets, examination)</i>	Weight	CLOs to be assessed				
		1	2	3	4	5
1. Class presentation	30%	X	X	X	X	X
2. Class discussion	20%	X	X	X	X	X
3. Term paper	50%	X	X	X	X	X
4.						
Total	100%					

Students will be assessed based on the following performance standards:

Course Grade	Performance Standard
Pass	
Fail	

In the first six weeks, each student presents one or two research papers assigned by instructors. In the next six weeks, students are expected to present their own work. Students are encouraged to actively participate in class discussion.

At the end of the semester, students are expected to submit a term paper (15-20 pages) based on independent and original research. This paper is on the topic of students' choice but

should be approved by instructors. At a minimum, the term paper should contain a clear statement of a research question, with articulation of why it is important, and how you intend to go about answering it. The rest of the paper should be used to summarize what the existing literature has to say about the research question and describe the data or theory you intend to apply. This does not have to be a complete paper (although if it is, that is wonderful). But it should be focused enough so that it provides students a strong foundation from which to build.

III. Course Content and Tentative Schedule

A list of research topics will be distributed at the beginning of the course. Students will be divided by research topics and present each assigned paper.

Tentative topics include the following:

1. Digital economy
2. AI and internal labor markets
3. Public organization
4. Growth and decline of firms
5. Behavioral organizational economics

IV. Required/Recommended Readings

Background reading

Arrow, K. (1974). *The Limits of Organization*. Norton & Company

Milgrom and Roberts (1992). *Economics, Organization & Management*. Pearson

Lazear, E. (1995). *Personnel Economics*, MIT Press

Roberts, J. 2004. *The Modern Firm: Organizational Design for Performance and Growth*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Bolton and Dewatripont (2005). *Contract Theory*. MIT Press

Gibbons and Roberts (Ed. 2012) *Handbook of Organizational Economics*. Princeton University Press

V. Course Policy

The University Regulations on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced! Academic dishonesty is behaviour 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:

- a. Plagiarism - The representation of someone else's ideas as if they are their 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. Please check the University Statement on plagiarism on the web: <http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism/>

- b. Unauthorized Collaboration on Out-of-Class Projects - The representation of work as solely one's own when in fact it is the result of a joint effort.
- c. Cheating on In-Class Exams - The covert gathering of information from other students, the use of unauthorized notes, unauthorized aids, etc.
- d. Unauthorized Advance Access to an Exam - The representation of materials prepared at leisure, as a result of unauthorized advance access (however obtained), as if it were prepared under the rigors of the exam setting. This misrepresentation is dishonest in itself even if there are not compounding factors, such as unauthorized uses of books or notes.

You are expected to do your own work whenever you are supposed to. Incident(s) of academic dishonesty will NOT be tolerated. Cheating or plagiarism of any kind would result in an automatic FAIL grade for the course plus strict enforcement of all Faculty and/or University regulations regarding such behaviour.