

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Public Policy
with effect from Semester A 2017/2018**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: International Housing Finance and Economics

Course Code: POL5702

Course Duration: One semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of Assessment: English

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

To provide students, whether they already have a background in economics or not, with the capacity to use economic and finance concepts to analyze housing issues.

At the end of this course student should have: a good understanding of the basic determinants of the demand for and supply of housing services, and relevant factors that influence tenure choice; a good understanding of the principles of housing finance, and the nature and role of mortgage instruments in the financing of home ownership; the reasons for government intervention; the forms of intervention; the principles of financing. Students will discover their ability and accomplishments to apply the economic theories to the current issues in housing and find out solutions to housing problems through attending the class exercises during the tutorials and discussion.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Apply basic economic principles to analyse the supply and demand of housing and the operation of the housing market, the reason for government intervention.	20%	√		
2.	Apply the housing economic theory as advanced by the Fisher-Dispasque-Wheaton (FDW) two sector model in analysing the local property market	25%			√
3.	Apply the principles of housing finance to analyse the different modes of financing for the public and the private sector	25%			√
4.	Evaluate housing policy development in terms of renting and owner-occupation, both locally and internationally	30%		√	
		100%			

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.				Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	
Readings	Students have to read one journal article or book chapter preferably before, if not, after each lecture; and the essential readings before each tutorial.	x	x	x	x	3
Lectures	Students will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> acquire knowledge of the concepts, values, and development of housing economics and finance. develop their analytical and critical capabilities to discuss issues in housing economics and finance. apply the theoretical knowledge to analyse empirical cases. 	x	x	x	x	2
Blackboard	On-line availability of lecture materials, questions, response, debate, and discussion on readings, lectures materials, and contemporary issues related to housing economics and finance.	x	x	x	x	0.5
Tutorials	Students will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyse and debate on key issues and concerns in the field of housing economics and finance. apply the economic theories to analyse issues in the Hong Kong context. generate new ideas on selected topics in which they will conduct research and analysis. 	x	x	x	x	1
Group work	A combination of group work; problem-based investigation, group discussion and team learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> students will be divided into groups give a presentation of a topic related to housing economics or housing finance. To promote problem-based and team learning, apart from a presentation, students will be assigned to prepare a commentary and critic notes on others' presentation and present on tutorial class. Students will comment on each other's performance and appraise their classmates' participation in tutorials, presentation skills, and research analysis. 	x	x	x	x	2
Essay-writing	Students have to compose a group paper with 2,500-3,000 words, based on students' presentation and others' comment.	x	x	x	x	1.5

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Students are required to pass BOTH the coursework assessment AND the examination before they can be awarded an overall passing grade of the course.

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.				Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4		
Continuous Assessment: 50%						
Group Presentation	x	x	x	x	10%	
Commentary and Participation	x	x	x	x	10%	
Term paper: 2,500 – 3,000 words	x	x	x	x	30%	
Examination: 50% (duration: 2 hours, if applicable)						

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
Written assignments	<p>1 Understand the concepts, relevance and integration of course materials;</p> <p>2 Analyze and evaluate relevant contents learned from course;</p> <p>3 Organize a good written structure and well-designed research methodology;</p> <p>4 Master a high overall written quality as well as logical written skills.</p>	<p>Excellent knowledge of the economic and financial variables, concepts and theories that influence the operation of the housing market; Strong ability to identify key challenges; Excellent research, writing and communication skills to organize and generate new perspectives present ideas orally and in written papers; Highly innovative ideas and critical attitude in analyzing housing issues</p>	<p>Satisfactory performance in applying the knowledge of the economic and financial variables, concepts and theories that influence the operation of the housing market; Fair ability to identify key challenges; Good research, writing and communication skills with some potential to develop critical, and independent analysis; fairly innovative and new ideas and critical attitude in analyzing housing issues</p>	<p>Only basic and limited knowledge on economic and financial theories on the operation of housing market; Superficial analysis of the basic materials; Generally acceptable standard of research, writing and communication skills with some limitations; Very little innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing issues</p>	<p>Very limited understanding of basic knowledge on housing economics and finance demonstrated; Occasionally irrelevant materials and theories presented with some inappropriate examples; Marginal standard of research, writing and communication skill with a number of limitations; very limited and almost no innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing problems and issues</p>	<p>Almost no knowledge of housing economics and finance; Almost no ability to identify key challenges; Inadequate research, writing and communication skills; no innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing problems and issues</p>
Examination	<p>1 Relevance: it directly answers the question?</p> <p>2 Understanding of the topic</p>	<p>Excellent knowledge of the economic and financial variables, concepts and theories that</p>	<p>Satisfactory performance in applying the knowledge of the economic and financial variables,</p>	<p>Only basic and limited knowledge on economic and financial theories on the operation of housing market;</p>	<p>Very limited understanding of basic knowledge on housing economics and finance demonstrated; Occasionally</p>	<p>Very limited understanding of basic knowledge on housing economics and finance demonstrated; Occasionally</p>

	<p>3 Evidence of the use of appropriate theory or practices; 4 Organisation of material into a coherent structure; 5 Clear written style, including accurate spelling, clear sentence construction and punctuation.</p>	<p>influence the operation of the housing market; Strong ability to identify key challenges; Excellent research, writing and communication skills to organize and generate new perspectives present ideas orally and in written papers; Highly innovative ideas and critical attitude in analyzing housing issues</p>	<p>concepts and theories that influence the operation of the housing market; Fair ability to identify key challenges; Good research, writing and communication skills with some potential to develop critical, and independent analysis; fairly innovative and new ideas and critical attitude in analyzing housing issues</p>	<p>Superficial analysis of the basic materials; Generally acceptable standard of research, writing and communication skills with some limitations; Very little innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing issues</p>	<p>irrelevant materials and theories presented with some inappropriate examples; Marginal standard of research, writing and communication skill with a number of limitations; very limited and almost no innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing problems and issues</p>	<p>irrelevant materials and theories presented with some inappropriate examples; Marginal standard of research, writing and communication skill with a number of limitations; very limited and almost no innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing problems and issues</p>
--	---	---	---	---	--	--

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

Demand for housing; Supply of housing; Financial Intermediation and the Markets for Finance, including Mortgage Finance; The Economics of Tenure Choice in The Private Sector; The Financing of Home Ownership; Financial Evaluation of Housing Development Projects; Housing Subsidies; Principles of Funding Public Housing in Hong Kong; International and Regional Housing Finance

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

1. Renaud, B, Pretorius, F and Pasadilla, B 1997 *Markets at Work: Dynamics of the Residential Real Estate Market in Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
2. O'Sullivan, A., & Gibb, K. (Eds.). (2002). *Housing Economics and Public Policy*. Oxford: Blackwell Science.
3. Garnett, D. (2000) *Housing Finance*. Coventry: Chartered Institute of Housing
4. Carr, P. 1994 *Accounting: Basic Reports*. Melbourne: Nelson.
5. DiPasquale, D 1996 *Urban Economics and Real Estate Markets*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.
6. Garnett, D. 1991 *Housing Finance*. London: Longman.
7. Pozdena, R J 1988 *The Modern Economics of Housing: A Guide to Theory and Policy*. New York: Quorum Books.
8. Hills, John. (1991) *Unraveling Housing Finance*. Oxford: Clarendon
9. John M. Quigley.(2001) '[Real Estate and the Asian Crisis.](#)' *Journal of Housing Economics*, 10(2), 2001: 129-161.

2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)