## Subject Description Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Code</th>
<th>APSS348</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subject Title</strong></td>
<td>Economics and Social Problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Credit Value</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Level</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pre-requisite/ Co-requisite/ Exclusion</strong></td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Methods</th>
<th>100%</th>
<th>Continuous Assessment</th>
<th>Individual Assessment</th>
<th>Group Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Class Attendance and Participation</td>
<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Seminar Presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Written Assignment</td>
<td></td>
<td>40%</td>
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- The grade is calculated according to the percentage assigned;
- The completion and submission of all component assignments are required for passing the subject.

### Objectives

The subject aims to introduce students to the art of economic analysis and how it can be applied to analyze some major social problems in real life. A special emphasis is the social policy and administration implications, both insights and limitations, of the economic perspectives. Concepts and tools in economics will be taught and illustrated through applying them in examining social problems – a “learning by doing” approach.

### Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:

- **a.** master basic and essential knowledge of economic analysis;
- **b.** understand how economic analysis can contribute to the analysis of social problems; and
- **c.** appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of economic analysis of social problems.
**Subject Synopsis/Indicative Syllabus**

This course has two parts. The first part is a general introduction to basic knowledge of economics. A basic set of assumptions, tools and techniques in economics will be introduced in this part. The second part is on the application of economics to the study of some major social problems.

1. Introduction and course overview;
2. A Framework for the study of Economics and Social Problems
3. Key Theoretical Concepts and Implications
4. Markets as a Social Construction
5. Poverty and Inequality
6. Labour Market and Employment
7. Healthcare
8. Housing and Education
9. Food Production, Consumption and Social Issues
10. Globalization and Migration

**Teaching/Learning Methodology**

Lectures will be for expounding the concepts and applications of theories and approaches, illustrated by current issues and real life cases. Seminars are for small group discussion and student-centered problem-driven and issue-based learning, which include seminar project, seminar presentation and written assignment.

**Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific assessment methods/tasks</th>
<th>% weighting</th>
<th>Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Class Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>40%</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Written Assignment</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:

**Class Attendance and Participation and Seminar Presentation**

Regular attendance and class participation is important for students to understand the basic concepts. Students will present their research findings on a selected social policy issue using economic analysis either following assigned topics or coming up with their original ideas. They are expected to prepare a presentation illustrating the
economic reasoning and the insights gained. This exercise helps enhance their competence and effectiveness in applying economics concepts in analyzing concrete issues as well as polishing their public presentation and communication skills.

Individual Written Assignment:

The written assignment will be either a book review or a paper on a topic of student’s choice. The topic of the essay must NOT be the same as the seminar presentation topic. Students are expected to demonstrate their written exposition of economic analysis and how well they can learn from their readings and lectures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Study Effort Required</th>
<th>Class contact:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other student study effort:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Self-directed Studies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Assignment Preparation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total student study effort</td>
<td></td>
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**Reading List and References**

**Essential**


**Supplementary**


