

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

PhD Course Syllabus

Course Code/Title: [STRA6018] AI, Organization, and Business Strategy

Course Description: This course is designed to bring doctoral students to the forefront of research on the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the organization of economic activities, business strategies, employment, and growth. It covers a wide range of theoretical models and empirical studies from the latest research on AI in economics, management, and other related fields. Emphasis is placed on methodological rigor and the integration of theory and empirical analysis.

Course Objectives: The primary objective of this course is to develop students' abilities to conduct independent research, including identifying valuable research topics, developing ideas, and applying rigorous methods. By the end of the course, students should be able to construct a model to explain empirical phenomena using or extending the models discussed in the course. Additionally, students are expected to apply modern econometric methods to their empirical projects effectively.

Pre-requisite: STRA6016 or the equivalent (subject to instructor approval)

Assessment: 50% coursework; 50% research proposal

Remarks: Nil

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 key issues in the research frontier of AI and organizational economics	X	X			X
2. Build skills in developing applied models and applying econometric methods	X	X	X	X	
3. Identify research topics	X	X	X		X
4. Comment and assess works related to technology, organization, and strategy	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: 2026-2027, First Semester

Time/Venue: Monday 14:00 – 16:50 (TBA)

Sep 7, 14, 21, 28;
Oct 5, 26;
Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Dec 7

Instructor: **Prof. LI Jin**
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Office: KK936 (by appointment)

Prof. WU Yanhui
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Office: KK931 (by appointment)

I. Teaching and Learning Activities

In-class and Out-of-class Activities (e.g. lectures, class discussion, papers reading, proposal writing)	Expected hour	% of student study effort
1. Lectures	30	30%
2. Class discussion	10	10%
3. Paper reading	30	30%
4. Homework	30	30%
Total	100	100%

II. Assessment

Assessment Components (e.g. assignments, problem sets, examination)	Weight	CLOs to be assessed				
		1	2	3	4	5
1. Presentations	25%	X	X	X	X	X
2. Problem sets	25%	X	X	X	X	X
3. Research proposal	50%	X	X	X	X	X
Total	100%					

Students will be assessed based on the following performance standards:

Course Grade	Performance Standard
A, B, C, D, F	

There will be several problem sets throughout the semester. In the last two weeks, students are required to give a presentation of the project he/she plans to pursue. At the end of the semester, students are required to submit a research proposal.

III. Course Content

Module I: AI, Knowledge, and Jobs

Topic 1: Knowledge-based Production

Topic 2: Organizational capabilities

Topic 3: Innovation and growth

Topic 4: Employment and inequality

Module II: AI, Incentives, and Governance

Topic 5: Incentives

Topic 6: Power

Topic 7: Governance

Topic 8: Strategy

Module III: Student presentations

IV. Required/Recommended Readings

This course will be based primarily on original academic articles. We will also distribute a set of lecture notes. The following books are useful references for learning the foundation of organizational economics.

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.

Textbooks

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

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

Research papers

A list of required and recommended readings will be distributed at the beginning of the semester.

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.

Students are expected to do their own work whenever they 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.