

EF4481: REGULATORY ECONOMICS

Effective Term

Semester A 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Regulatory Economics

Subject Code

EF - Economics and Finance

Course Number

4481

Academic Unit

Economics and Finance (EF)

College/School

College of Business (CB)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

EF3440Microeconomics for Business Strategy OR
EF3442Intermediate Microeconomics

Precursors

EF4480 Industrial Organization

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to help students understand why some business practices affect competition; how governments regulate the market to safeguard competition, stability and efficiency; and how business strategies should be formulated in dealing with the regulatory environment. Most governments attempt to maintain and regulate a competitive environment in the marketplace or use regulatory measures to achieve economic efficiency and other political objectives. The course is an introduction to the role of government in markets where competitive equilibria “fail.” In this course we go beyond the strategic interaction of firms and concentrate on the interaction between firms and the government in the following settings: a firm as a regulated monopoly; a firm as a participant in a market regulated by the government; and a firm as an agent to provide goods and/or services financed by the government. This course covers three areas in the economics of regulations: (i) how to regulate the market competition through the application of anti-trust law; (ii) how to regulate the monopolies through the practices of incentive regulation; and (iii) how to reduce systemic risk through financial regulation. The course also encourages discovery learning, which takes place when students use the knowledge and skills they acquired from the lectures to discover, for themselves, practical solutions to problems on economics of regulations in real-life contexts. The project presentation and examination will reflect their accomplishment in discovery and innovation.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify the basic elements of the competition law; identify the basic elements of risk regulation in the financial market; to motivate discovery based learning; compare and contrast the economic theories to explain the risk regulation and competition law.	25	x	x	
2	Demonstrate the competition analysis in anti-trust cases. Students are encouraged to develop innovative solutions, critical thinking and problem solving skills in the anti-trust cases.	25	x		x
3	Explain different regulatory approaches on neutral monopolies, such as power companies and water companies; analyse scenarios related to real life issues and comment on the current issues through discovering the underlying concepts and economic theories.	25	x	x	x
4	Describe financial and non-financial performance measures for regulated industries; and develop systemic risk management performance measures for financial institutions; perform analyses on global issues with the concepts and models. This is important in developing students’ abilities and skills to discover and innovate.	25	x	x	x

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 real-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.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Students will engage in lecturer activities to think critically and logically by asking students to respond to questions and getting students to solve the problems by themselves rather than giving away the solutions.	1, 2, 3, 4	3 hours/week
2	Case Studies discussion in the lectures	Students will participate in MBA cases discussion in lectures to apply the basic theories of microeconomics and game theories in the discussion.	2, 3, 4	weeks 10-13; incorporated in lectures
3	Peer Discussion	Students will engage in structured discussion with peers to identify areas to improve on in their returned assessment tasks.	1, 2, 3, 4	student work

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Group Projects and Peer Evaluation	1, 2, 3, 4	30	
2	Class Participation	1, 2, 3, 4	10	including performance in experiments

Continuous Assessment (%)

40

Examination (%)

60

Examination Duration (Hours)

3

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Final Examination

Criterion

Understand the basics of competition law, and risk, and be able to apply these concepts to various real life cases.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.

Marginal (D)

Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.

Failure (F)

Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of literature.

Assessment Task

Group Projects and Peer Evaluation

Criterion

Understand the basics of competition law, and risk, and be able to apply these concepts to various real life cases.

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Assessment Task

Class Participation

Criterion

Understand the basics of competition law, and risk, and be able to apply these concepts to various real life cases.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

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Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

1. Introduction to competition law
2. Measurement of Market Boundary and Market Collusion
3. Merger Control
4. Monopolization and Abuse of Dominance
5. Introduction to Regulatory Reform
6. Theory of Incentive Regulation
7. Commitments on Incentive Regulation
8. Regulatory Policy Considerations
9. Theory and Practices of Financial Regulation
10. Common Features of Financial Crisis
11. Assessing the Risky Environment
12. Financial Regulatory Reform Debate

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Hylton N Keith: Anti-trust Law: Economic Theory and Common Law Evolution Cambridge University Press 2003. (Hylton)
2	IMF: "Containing Systemic Risks and Restoring Financial Soundness" Global Financial Stability Report April 2008 (IMF)

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Anti-trust Cases can be found from the following link: http://www3.oup-usa.org/sc/0195161181/bytopic.html