

GEX1010/GET1023: Thinking Like an Economist
FASStrack 2025

Schedule: PM Session (2pm-6pm, Singapore Time)
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

Course Description

This module aims to explain human behavior through the lens of economists. We use economic reasoning to answer real-life questions as diverse as the following: Why would someone cheat? Why do people give out money to benefit others? Which factors cause crime rates to go down? Why do countries fail sometimes?

We use texts that popularize economic concepts to illustrate how different social phenomena can be understood by applying the tools of economic analysis. However, we also discuss possible limitations of the economic approach to social issues. In this course we review, challenge, and debate on firmly established ideas we all have about the world, our society, and ourselves.

After this class, you will have understood how economists view the world and how to analyze different social phenomena from the perspective of economics. You will also be introduced to some of the major debates the world economy faces today and learn how to formulate arguments using the logic from economics.

The teaching mode of this class will be a combination of lectures and discussions.

Preclusion/ Prerequisite

Nil

Lecturer

Tingting Wu

Course Assessment

Assessments		Assessment deadlines
In-class Participation	15%	During Lectures
In-class Quizzes	30%	During Lectures
Group Presentation	30%	18 July
Individual Essay	25%	22 July
Total for CA:	100%	

- In-class participation (15%): Students assessed based on the quality of their contributions to class discussions.
- In-class quizzes (30%): In-class quizzes will be administered online during lectures using Canvas Quiz to check students' understanding of relevant theories and concepts introduced in the lectures.
- Group Presentation (30%): One 20-minute group presentation on a chosen topic.
- Essay (25%): One essay with less than 3000 words to discuss one phenomena from the perspective of economics.

Course Topics*

Week	Day	Topic	Session Activities
1	Class 1: Friday	Thinking Like an Economist	Lecture + Discussion
2	Class 2: Tuesday	The Rational Economics and The Irrational Us	Lecture + Discussion
	Class 3: Wednesday	The Beauty of the Market	Lecture + Discussion
	Class 4: Thursday	Happiness and Love	Lecture + Discussion
	Class 5: Friday	The Altruistic Man	Lecture + Discussion
3	Class 6: Tuesday	The World of Crime	Lecture + Discussion
	Class 7: Wednesday	A Manual Guide to Get Rich	Lecture + Discussion
	Class 8: Thursday	Rich and Poor in an Unequal World	Lecture + Discussion
	Class 9: Friday	Artificial Intelligence and the Future	Lecture + Group Presentation

* Minor adjustments might be made.

Reading List

Reading materials will consist of selected book chapters, journal articles and other references. These will be made available and downloadable from Canvas together with the lecture notes for each lecture.