The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Subject Description Form

Subject Code	LGT3508
Subject Title	The Management of Intermodal Transport
Credit Value	3
Level	3
Normal Duration	1-semester
Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion	Nil
Role and Purposes	To ensure that students fully comprehend and can apply concepts of international trade and transport economics in the transportation of cargoes via multi modal means viz: rail, road, sea, air and pipelines.
Subject Learning Outcomes	Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to: a. Understand the basic concepts of intermodalism; b. Manage intermodal transport in an integrated form according to sound business practices; c. Understand the technologies used in material handling in intermodal transport; d. Understand the use of IT in intermodal freight management; e. Develop approaches in defining, analysing and solving problems in the management of multimodal transport; f. Apply relevant operations management techniques to improve the processes and services of intermodal transportation.
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	Introduction on intermodalism, development and service characteristics of various modes. Transport modes and carrier selection. The concept of transport network. Containerisation. Intermodality and its value. Roles of multimodal operators. FIATA model rules. Product storage, warehousing and facilities. Materials handling in intermodal transport. The concept of dry ports and related cost savings through increased transport efficiency. Documentation for intermodal carriage. Application of EDI - Role of information and communication technology in intermodal transport. International transportation conventions on liabilities issues for various modes of transport. Government policies on intermodal operation. Security issues in intermodal transport. The basic concepts of quality management and lean operations.

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<tr><td>Teaching/Learning Methodology</td><td>In the lectures, the general principles of the syllabus topic will be presented and developed, together with guidance on further reading and activities. Lectures may also be used for the presentation and discussion of leading cases.

In the tutorials/seminars, students will develop and apply the general principles of the topic in student-centred activities, including student presentations and discussions.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes</td><td>
<table>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Specific assessment methods/tasks</td><td rowspan="2">% weighting</td><td colspan="6">Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)</td></tr>
<tr><td>a</td><td>b</td><td>c</td><td>d</td><td>e</td><td>f</td></tr>
<tr><td>Coursework</td><td>50%</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>▪ Mini-project</td><td>40%</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td></tr>
<tr><td>▪ Presentation</td><td>10%</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td></tr>
<tr><td>Examination</td><td>50%</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total</td><td>100 %</td><td colspan="6"></td></tr>
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Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:

Since the course focuses on the management of intermodal transport, case analysis and learning from practical, work-based experiences form an important constituent of student assessment. Coursework in the form of mini-project which targets some critical issues in the intermodal transport business will reinforce theoretical concepts learnt during the lectures and enable their applications in real-life operational situations. Presentation of student projects in the form of seminars will enhance students' communications skills and reinforce their concepts through two-way dialogue and discussions.

Final examination is an open-book examination that assesses student's in-depth understanding on the theoretical concepts of the subject and the ability to apply conceptual framework in real business case analysis.

Students would be given regular feedback on their performance, by email or as comments on assignments submitted.

To pass this subject, students are required to obtain Grade D or above in BOTH the Continuous Assessment and Exam components.</td></tr>
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Student Study Effort Expected	Class contact:	
	▪ Lectures	26 Hrs.
	▪ Tutorials/seminars	13 Hrs.
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ Self study	45 Hrs.
	▪ Coursework	42 Hrs.
	Total student study effort	126 Hrs.
Reading List and References	Buckley, J.J., 2008. The business of shipping. Cornell Maritime Press. Cheong, Y., 2006. The Practitioner's Definitive Guide. Multimodal transport. The Singapore Logistics Association. Singapore: SNP Reference. Dykstra, D.L., 2005. Commercial Management in Shipping. Nautical Institute. Konings, J.W., 2008. The Future of Intermodal Freight Transport: Operations, Design and Policy. Edward Elgar Publishing. Lowe, D., 2006. Intermodal Freight Transport. Oxford, Boston Routledge. Lowe, D., 2013, Lowe's Transport Manager's & Operator's Handbook. London, Kogan Page. Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, 2004. Intermodal Freight Transportation: Freight Transportation Planning. Transportation Research Board. Wegenek. R., 2002. E-Commerce, A Guide to the Law of Electronic Business, London, Butterworths Lexis Nexis. Wehrheim, M., 2011. The Buy Or Lease Decision: An Enhanced Theoretical Model Based on Empirical Analyses with Implications for the Container Financing Decision of Shipping Lines. Lang, Peter, GmbH, Internationaler Verlag der Wissenschaften.	