



AY 2023-24 Term 2  
 IDIS 110 Tentative Course Outline  
 SMUX Practicum: Protection and Representation of Platform Workers in Singapore  
 Client: Lalamove

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Ivy LAU

Office: 10 Canning Rise, Level 4, Room 4-43

Phone: 6828-0839

Email: [ivy lau@smu.edu.sg](mailto:ivy lau@smu.edu.sg)

Consultation Hours: TBC

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** TBC

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

Own account workers are individuals who run their own business or trade without employing any paid employees ([https://stats.mom.gov.sg/iMAS\\_PdfLibrary/mrsd\\_2020LabourForce\\_survey\\_findings.pdf](https://stats.mom.gov.sg/iMAS_PdfLibrary/mrsd_2020LabourForce_survey_findings.pdf)). Examples of service/work offered include private-hire car drivers, goods/food delivery, creative work, private tutor. The annual Comprehensive Labour Force Survey (CLFS) conducted by Ministry of Manpower reported that over half of this group of workers advertise their business online and more than a third received work through online matching platforms. Examples of online matching platforms include Lalamove, Grab, Freelancer. The number of own account workers has increased from 211,000 in 2019 to 228,200 in 2020. The increase can be explained by Covid driving people towards platform work. In addition, platform work is attractive because it offers a high degree of flexibility that allows platform workers agency in their own work arrangements (<https://www.institute.global/insights/tech-and-digitalisation/freedom-jobs-how-workers-perceive-platform-work-and-what-governments-should-do-about-it>).

In view of its size and in anticipation of its continuing rise, the Singapore Government plans for official measures to safeguard platform workers. The Advisory Committee on Platform Workers was formed in 2021 and its recommendations for strengthening protections for and presentation of platform workers were accepted by the government in 2022, thus paving the way for future policy regulating platform work. With regulation, there may be tradeoffs for flexibility of the platform work environment. To maximize protection offered by legislation and minimize negative impacts restrictions may have on platform work, it is imperative to have a balanced view of the benefits and drawbacks of platform work. This SMUX Practicum aims to contribute to this effort.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

Lalamove is an on-demand delivery platform. It matches users who have delivery needs to the delivery partners who utilize its platform. It was engaged by the Advisory Committee on Platform Workers in formulating their recommendations. In view of the impending legislation of platform work, Lalamove is keen to continue its contribution to the policy making process by providing a comprehensive picture of the platform work environment in Singapore. The objective of the course is to provide policy recommendations backed by research on both the benefits and drawbacks of platform work.

Students will develop policy recommendations in one of two areas that Lalamove can reference in its future discussion/interaction with regulators. One area consists of three thematic pillars that characterize platform work: inclusion, accessibility, and economy. The second area concerns input for government policies on insurance, CPF, and representation.

## CLASS SESSIONS

Classes consist of one 3-hour session per week. Sessions will involve a variety of activities, including presentations and seminars by the instructors, students, and invited speakers, field work (possibilities include attending parliament debate sessions, interviewing platform workers), in-class collaborative work, and group consultations with the instructor.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

There is no textbook for this course. Assigned readings will be provided for most class sessions and will be uploaded on eLearn.

## ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated based on the following components. There is no final examination. The final grade will be a Pass/Fail grade derived from the total marks computed based on the evaluation components. To pass the course, students must not be absent for more than 20% of class sessions.

Class participation	15%
Short presentation on platform work practices outside of Singapore	10%
Main project preliminary report	20%
Main project final report and presentation to stakeholders	50%
Peer evaluation	5%

**\*\* The assessment schedule and weightage are subject to change**

**Accessibility and Accommodations:** SMU strives to make learning experiences accessible for all. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers due to disability, please let me know immediately. You are also welcome to contact the university's disability support team if you have questions or concerns about academic accommodations: [included@smu.edu.sg](mailto:included@smu.edu.sg)

**Academic Integrity:** All acts of academic dishonesty (including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, facilitation of acts of academic dishonesty by others, unauthorized possession of exam questions, or tampering with the academic work of other students) are serious offences. All work

(whether oral or written) submitted for purposes of assessment must be the student's own work. Penalties for violation of the policy range from zero marks for the component assessment to expulsion, depending on the nature of the offense.

When in doubt, you should consult the instructors of the course. Details on the SMU Code of Academic Integrity may be accessed at <https://oasis.smu.edu.sg/Pages/DOS-WKLSWC/UCSC.aspx>

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