This course is an introduction to Labor Economics. Formally, Labor Economics is the field of economics that studies the demand and supply of labor. Labor Economics is also used to refer more broadly to applied microeconomics, the body of research that uses data to study how individuals and firms choose to allocate their limited resources. This course will cover some of the core topics in Labor Economics, such as minimum wages, immigration, human capital, inequality, and discrimination. In addition, we will study selected topics in other fields of applied microeconomics that are associated with Labor Economics, namely Economics of Crime, Economics of Education, Health Economics, and Development Economics. What makes Labor Economics one of the most exciting fields of economics is that its findings have direct implications for public policy. The main goal of this course will be to learn how to evaluate and interpret empirical results in applied microeconomics, understanding the implications some of these results may have for public policy.

Textbook and Readings


Required readings are listed under each topic. These readings will be available online.

Course Grading

Midterm Exam: 30%
Final Exam: 40%
2-3 Problem Sets: 15%
Class Participation: 15%

Class Participation (15%)

Class discussion is important for both individual and collective learning. The quality of a student’s participation is at least as important as the quantity, and the following points characterize effective participation:
. Do comments draw on the text and materials from this and other courses?
  Do they show evidence of analysis?
. Does the student distinguish between positive and normative analysis?
  Does the student distinguish between opinion and well-supported analysis?
. Are the points made substantive? Are they linked to the comments of others? Do they advance
  or deepen the discussion? Do they deepen the analysis?
. Do comments clarify and highlight the important aspects of earlier comments and lead to a
  clearer statement of the concepts being considered? Is there an attempt to synthesize the
  discussion?

**Regrade Policy**

The material covered on the examinations will come from the lecture notes, problem sets and
required reading. If a student requests that some question on an examination be re-graded, the
professor will review the entire examination. Makeup exams will be offered only under
extenuating circumstances (e.g. serious injuries, family deaths), so please plan ahead.

1. **Overview of the Labor Market**

ES, Ch. 2


2. **Labor Demand**

ES, Ch. 3 & 4


3. **Labor Supply**

ES, Ch. 6 & 7


4. Human Capital Investments

ES, Ch. 9


5. Migration and Job Turnover

ES, Ch. 10


6. Gender and Race Discrimination in the Labor Market

ES, Ch. 12


7. **Unemployment**

ES, Ch. 14


8. **Inequality in Earnings**

ES, Ch. 15


9. **Labor Market Effects of International Trade and Outsourcing**

ES, Ch. 16
10. Primer on Good and Bad Empirical Research

11. Economics of Crime

http://qje.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2015/04/11/qje.qjv003.full.pdf+html

http://www.nber.org/papers/w21178

12. Development Economics


13. Economics of Education


14. Health Economics

