



ECON 630 – Advanced Labor Economics – Spring 2021
Sabancı University, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Instructor: Abdurrahman Aydemir
E-mail: aaydemir@sabanciuniv.edu
Office/Phone: FASS 1047 / 483 9344
Office Hours: tba

Lectures: Tues: 8:40-11:30 online

Course overview

This course covers economic theory and econometric analysis of labor market outcomes. The course includes selected topics from labor demand, labor supply, labor market equilibrium, human capital, intergenerational mobility, migration, and minimum wages. Through these topics the course aims to introduce students to important theoretical and empirical methods in the field. Course evaluation will consist of assignments, reviews of literature, discussion and presentation of articles, and a research paper proposal.

There is no textbook for the course. Note that course content, requirements and policies are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Requirements and grading

This is an online course that will be taught as synchronous-live sessions. We may use either Google Meet or Zoom. Video recordings of the lectures will be posted on SuCourse+. The course involves in class discussions and presentations. Students are expected to participate to all of the classes.

For proctored exams, your webcam and microphone should be on during the exam. In the case of non-compliance with this and other declared exam procedures, your exam will be void. Make sure to check that your webcam and microphone function properly before the exam.

You must attend the synchronous Zoom lectures, recitations, etc. and real-time online exams with your SU email account.

Course requirements include weekly readings, paper presentations, critical reviews, and a research proposal.

Weekly readings will be assigned around the topics covered in the course. Students are expected to read the assigned articles in advance, participate in class discussions and present articles during the class.

Research proposal will be around one of the topics discussed in class. The proposal will discuss the main question that will be addressed, its contribution to the literature, and the methodology that will be followed. The proposal will also review the relevant literature and data sources that will be used for empirical papers. The proposal will be a maximum of 6 pages long, double spaced including references, figures, tables. The due date for the research proposal is the first Sunday of the final exam period, 12 pm.

The proposal is judged based on literature review (15 points), originality and potential contribution of proposed research (40 points), method and data (30 points), and structure (15 points).

Course grade will be based on above assignments that are intended to prepare students to research in the field. In particular, the weight of above assignments will be: In class participation/presentations (30 %), critical reviews (25 %) and research proposal (45 %).

Rules of Conduct

The definition for scholastic dishonesty is given in the rules and regulations of the Sabancı University. In the case of scholastic dishonesty, no credits will be given for that particular work. Cheating during written work will result in an F for the course. All incidents of scholastic dishonesty will be reported to FASS for disciplinary action.

The following is a tentative outline of the topics that will be covered. Selected readings related to these topics will be covered.

- I. Human Capital
 - 1. Education decision
 - 2. Parental investments
 - 3. Returns to schooling (Average returns / return heterogeneity)
 - 4. Benefits of education expansions by socioeconomic background
- II. Mobility across generations
 - 1. Education and earnings mobility
 - 2. Intergenerational effects of compulsory reforms / school supply shocks
- III. Geographic mobility and consequences
 - 1. Migration decision (individual level factors / networks / policy)
 - 2. Effects on host country
- IV. Minimum wages
 - 1. Minimum wage regimes
 - 2. Effects of minimum wages on the labor market