



ECON 430 – Labor Economics – Fall 2020
Sabancı University, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

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Office/Phone: FASS 1047 / 483 9344
Office Hours: by email appointment

Lectures: Mon : 9:40 am - 10:30 am -- online
Tues : 2:40 pm - 4:30 pm -- FASS 1096 and online

Prerequisites: ECON 204 (Microeconomics)

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Zoom link for online classes:

<https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/99068219753>

Course Overview

This course will examine a variety of topics in labor markets. First, we will develop theoretical models of labor supply, labor demand and the interaction of the two. These models will then be applied to understand issues such as wage determination, wage differentials, human capital investment, migration and discrimination, unemployment and labor policies, and unions.

Familiarity with topics covered at the intermediate microeconomics level is required. During the course students will learn about the data and the empirical methods that labor economists employ to quantify the relationships developed in theoretical models of the labor market. The course also aims to illustrate how economic reasoning can be used to address policy relevant questions.

Textbook

Borjas, G. , Labor Economics , McGraw Hill

Note that selected material will be covered from this text book, and lectures will include material not included in this text. Course content, requirements and policies are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Other Required Readings

Additional readings will be assigned throughout the semester regarding the topics covered in class. There will be in class discussion of these assigned readings. Participation in discussions will be graded. There will be occasional unannounced quizzes on assigned readings and other course material covered in class.

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+. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to go over the course material.

Grading

Midterm: 40 %, Class Performance and Quizzes: 20 %, Final Exam: 40 %

The course grade is solely based on the grading scheme stated on the syllabus. There will be no exceptions to this (like doing additional assignments, writing a term paper etc.). A student who is not present during the start of a quiz will be given a grade of 0.

- Teaching format:
 - The course will be taught in a hybrid format with in-class and online hours as listed above.
 - The online lectures will only be delivered through Zoom while in-class lectures will be simultaneously delivered in class and through Zoom.
 - The online participants should keep their microphones off during the lectures and ask their questions through Zoom chat.
 - All lectures will be recorded and shared on SuCourse+.
- Rotation rule for in-person attendance:
 - Due to limited seating capacity of classrooms, the rotation rule determined by the university administration will be implemented.
 - Only students whose id no ends with an odd number can physically attend classes in the first week, and only those whose id no ends with an even number can attend classes physically in the second week. We will continue implementing this rule if necessary after observing the attendance numbers in the first two weeks.
- Problem sets will be given to help with the course material but they will not be collected and graded.
- Exam policy:
 - All exams will be in-person, on campus.
 - The final exam will be held during the final exam period and the exact date is determined by the Student Resources.

Rules of Conduct

The definition for scholastic dishonesty is given in the rules and regulations of the Sabanci 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..

Make-up exams are granted only in case of a valid and documented reason. If you are granted a make up the exam will take place after the final exams, it will be cumulative and typically harder than the other exams.

In case of an illness, the student is required to produce a formal doctor's note from a hospital. (A doctor's note taken from a doctor's private practice does not count as formal.) In case of private hospitals, the doctor's note has to be verified by the university health service. The doctor's notes should be submitted within two weeks following the midterm date.

Absence in exams without any valid documented reason will result in a zero from that exam.

You are responsible from all material covered during the class which will include material not covered by the text book. Therefore, students are strongly encouraged to attend the classes.

(Below outline is tentative and subject to revision.)

Course Outline

Topic 1 - Introduction, Review

Topic 2 - Labor Supply

Topic 3 – Labor Demand

Topic 5 - Labor Market Equilibrium

Topic 6 - Compensating Differentials

Exam I – Nov 16, 2021, Class time

Topic 7 - Human Capital

Topic 8 – Unemployment

Topic 9 - Labor Mobility

Selection of topics from:

Topic 10 - Labor Market Discrimination

Topic 11 - Labor Unions

Topic 12 - Incentive Pay

Topic 13 – The Wage Structure

Final exam – Final exam period