



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

# Soochow University

## ECO 330 Labour Economics

Summer 2021

### Course information

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 55 hours

**Class Time:** 8:30 - 10:20

**Instructor:** TBA

**Course Format:** Online

### Course Description

The course discusses a great variety of topics related to labor economics. It is designed to acquaint students with the critical issues in Canadian labor market. Topics involved in this course will include labor supply and labor demand, gender in labour market, wage differentials, discrimination in hiring and promotion, employment and unemployment, as well as labor and economy. This course will also provide students with an in-dept insight into the issues associated with workplace closing and work sharing.

### Prerequisite(s)

None



## Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain how the labor markets operate in a variety of contexts;
2. Understand the relation between theoretical understanding and the empirical approaches;
3. Understand the function of minimum wage;
4. Show understanding of commonly used data and methods in applied labor market research;
5. Describe and analyze the discrimination in labor market.

## Methodology

| Methodology                    | Hours      | Hours of work<br>During class | Hours of work<br>After class |
|--------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Online Video                   | 50         | 88 hours (60%)                |                              |
| Online Forum Discussion        | 8          |                               |                              |
| Assessment                     | 30         |                               |                              |
| Personal study                 | 30         | 68 hours (40%)                |                              |
| Tasks                          | 22         |                               |                              |
| Practical teaching preparation | 10         |                               |                              |
| Bibliographic search           | 6          |                               |                              |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>156</b> | <b>88</b>                     | <b>68</b>                    |

## Textbook(s)

Ehrenberg, R, R. Smith, and R. Cahykowski, *Modern Labour Economics: Theory and Public Policy* (Canadian edition), Latest Edition, Addison-Wesley.



## Tasks and Evaluation

|              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Midterm Test | 25%               |
| Final Exam   | 35%               |
| 2 Quizzes    | 40%(20% for each) |

Students are required to attend online classes on the scheduled time. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

- Missing less than two classes: no penalty.
- Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

Online forum discussion is required. Students are required to post at least one question and answer at least one question on the forum weekly.

Online Tutorials are mandatory. Students will read and discuss academic articles provided. Students will also discuss the case studies for the week's lectures. Each Tutorial will be 1 hour.

All exams will be held online and the time of each exam will be limited to 1 hour. Exams must also be taken at the scheduled time. There will be no make-up exams

## Rating system:

### 1. Assessment

| ASSESSMENT ITEM | PERCENT OF FINAL GRADE |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Quizzes         | 40% (20% for each)     |
| Midterm         | 25%                    |
| Final exam      | 35%                    |



## 2. Grading Scale

|           |         |          |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| A+ 96-100 | A 90-95 | A- 85-89 |
| B+ 82-84  | B 78-81 | B- 75-77 |
| C+ 71-74  | C 66-70 | C- 62-65 |
| D 60-61   | F < 60  |          |

## Course Content

| Week | Lesson | Content  |
|------|--------|--|
| 1    | 1      | The Labor Market: Definitions, Facts, and Trends   |
|      | 2      | The demand for labor   |
|      | 3      | The Short-Run Demand for Labor When Both Product and Labor Markets Are Competitive             |
|      | 4      | The Labor Market Effects of Employer Payroll Taxes and Wage Subsidies                          |
|      | 5      | Effects of Minimum Wage  |
| 2    | 6      | Applying Concepts of Labor Demand Elasticity to issue of Technological Change<br><b>Quiz 1</b> |
|      | 7      | Friction in the labor market   |
|      | 8      | Frictions on the Employer Side of the Mark   |
|      | 9      | Hiring Investment  |
|      | 10     | Supply of labor to the economy: the decision to work   |
| 3    | 11     | <b>Midterm Test</b>  |
|      | 12     | Trends in Labor Force Participation and Hours of Work  |
|      | 13     | Labor supply: household production, the family, and the life cycle                             |
|      | 14     | Joint Labor Supply Decisions within the Household  |



|   |    |  |
|---|----|--|
|   | 15 | Compensating wage differentials and labor markets                |
|   |    |  |
| 4 | 16 | Hedonic Wage Theory and Employee Benefit<br><b>Quiz 2</b>        |
|   | 17 | Investments in human capital: education and training             |
|   | 18 | Education, Earnings, and Post-Schooling Investments in Human Cap |
|   | 19 | Is Education a Good Investment                                   |
|   | 20 | Worker mobility: migration, immigration and turnover             |
|   |    |  |
| 5 | 21 | Pay and productivity: wage determination within the firm         |
|   | 22 | Gender, race, and ethnicity in the labor market                  |
|   | 23 | Gender, race, and ethnicity in the labor market (Cont.)          |
|   | 24 | Final Exam Review  |
|   | 25 | <b>Final Exam</b>  |



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## University Regulations and Services

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

Soochow University also highly respects students' accommodation for disabilities and religions. You might contact the Student Accessibility Office if you have any questions, concerns or if you would like to report any offensive behaviors.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.