



蘇州大學
Soochow University

ECO 400 Introduction to Labour Economics

Winter 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This is a comprehensive study of the economic factors that influence the labor market, employment patterns, wage determination, and human capital investment. This course explores the critical relationship between workers and employers and examines the allocation of labor resources within an economy. Students will gain a deep understanding of the fundamental principles and theories that underlie labor markets and workforce behavior.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Gain an understanding of how labor markets function, including the concepts of labor supply and demand, wage determination, and factors that influence these markets
2. Explore the causes and consequences of wage inequality, including wage differentials based on factors such as education, experience, gender, and race
3. Learn about the concept of human capital and how investments in education and training impact labor market outcomes
4. Explore the globalization of labor markets, labor market trends on a global scale, and the implications of international labor migration
5. Apply economic theory and models to real-world labor market issues and problems

PREREQUISITES

ECO 206 Microeconomic Theory I



GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
Quizzes	20 Points
Assignments	20 Points
Midterm Exam	25 Points
Final Exam	35 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F.$$

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

George Borjas, *Labor Economics*, 8th Edition, McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2020.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	Topics: Topic 1: Introduction Topic 2: Labor Supply Topic 3: Labor Supply Cont. Topic 4: Labor Demand Assessments: Quiz#1



Module 2	Topics: Topic 5: Policy Application: The Minimum Wage Topic 6: Labor Market Equilibrium Topic 7: The Labor Market Impact of Immigration Topic 8: Policy Application: High-Skill Immigration Assessments: Quiz#2 Assignment#1
Module 3	Topics: Topic 9: Compensating Wage Differentials Topic 10: The Hedonic Wage Function Topic 11: Policy Application: Health Insurance and the Labor Market Topic 12: Education in the Labor Market: Some Stylized Facts Assessments: Midterm Exam
Module 4	Topics: Topic 13: The Wage Distribution Topic 14: The Wage Distribution Cont. Topic 15: Labor Market Discrimination Topic 16: Labor Market Discrimination Cont. Assessments: Assignment#2
Module 5	Topics: Topic 17: Monopoly Unions Topic 18: Union Wage Effects Topic 19: Incentive Pay Topic 20: Unemployment Assessments: Final Exam

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. 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.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.



2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

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.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION



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Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

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.