

Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Labor Economics
Course Code	27224
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	ECON-02/A
Language	English
Degree Course	Bachelor in Economics, Politics and Ethics
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	Prof. Steven Eric Stillman, Steven.Stillman@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/36390
Teaching Assistant	Dott. Andrea Montalbano
Semester	Second semester
Course Year/s	3
CP	7
Teaching Hours	42
Lab Hours	12
Individual Study Hours	-
Planned Office Hours	21
Contents Summary	This course gives a general overview of labor economics. It discusses both theoretical and empirical evidence on core topics including labor supply, labor demand, labor market equilibrium, unemployment and human capital. It also discusses the role of labor unions, incentive pay contracts, labor market discrimination in determining labor market outcomes. We also discuss theoretical and empirical evidence about social interactions, inequality, labor mobility, immigration, household decision-making and child development. Students will learn how to interpret theoretical ideas and applied research results such as how individual labor market decisions are impacted by government policies.

Course Topics	Introduction, Review of Empirical Methods, Labor Supply, Labor Demand, Labor Market Equilibrium, Human Capital, Labor Unions, Incentive Pay, Unemployment, Social Interactions, Labor Market Discrimination, Inequality, Labor Mobility, Immigration, Household Economics, Work, Family and Child Development.
Keywords	Labor supply, labor demand, inequality, immigration
Recommended Prerequisites	
Propaedeutic Courses	Previous attendance of an introductory course in microeconomics is strongly suggested, to properly follow the lectures
Teaching Format	Lectures, discussions, small group projects
Mandatory Attendance	Recommended, but not mandatory
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	<p>ILO (Intended Learning Outcomes)</p> <p>ILO 1 Knowledge and understanding</p> <p>ILO 1.1 ability to understand complex economic texts in the three teaching languages;</p> <p>ILO 1.2 understanding of the basic principles of the functioning of labour markets;</p> <p>ILO 2 Applying knowledge and understanding</p> <p>ILO 2.1 ability to interact with native speakers in a fluent and spontaneous manner on economic topics;</p> <p>ILO 2.2 ability to produce texts on topics of scientific interest;</p> <p>ILO 2.3 ability to analyse labour markets and the effects of policies aimed at these markets, considering general institutional conditions;</p> <p>ILO 3 Making judgements</p> <p>ILO 3.1 Acquisition of the ability to make judgements and of the methodological tools useful for the critical analysis of data, sources, assumptions and implications of scientific practice, of the political, ethical and legal context within which economic phenomena are set and with which they interact</p> <p>ILO 4 Communication skills</p>

	<p>ILO 4.1 Proficiency (oral and written) in Italian, German and English, including translation between these languages. Intercultural competence. Conceptual awareness, synthesis and written expression, in particular in the drafting of scientific or science-based documents</p> <p>ILO 5 Learning skills ILO 5.1 Promotion of critical thinking and analytical skills to focus on complex problems in their long-term dynamics and the variety of their implications, including ethical ones</p>
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	
Assessment	<p>The final grade will be a weighted average of a</p> <p>(a) mandatory writing assignment and presentation (30%) - ILO 1.1-1.2, ILO 2.1-2.3, ILO 3.1, ILO 4.1, ILO 5.1</p> <p>(c) voluntary written midterm exam (35%) - ILO 1.1-1.2, ILO 2.3, ILO 3.1, ILO 4.1, ILO 5.1</p> <p>(d) written final exam (35%). - ILO 1.1-1.2, ILO 2.3, ILO 3.1, ILO 4.1, ILO 5.1</p> <p>Non-attendees are allowed to take the midterm exam and are encouraged to do the presentation. The midterm grade can be rejected in which case the student will take a longer final exam covering all of the material in the course.</p> <p>For attending students, the course project is done in groups of 2 students and it includes a written project report (about 10 pages) and short 10-minute presentation of the main ideas developed.</p> <p>Non-attending students can do a course project in groups of 2 students if they prefer but must sign-up when this is offered, i.e. agree on a topic with the instructors at the least 2 months before the exam that they wish to take. Non-attending students can also do instead so a written 10-page project on their own.</p>

	<p>Students that do not take the midterm or reject their midterm grade will be given a longer final that will count for 70% of the final grade. For non-attending students who choose not to do the presentation, the writing assignment will count for 30% of the final grade.</p> <p>The textbook, "Labor Economics" by George J. Borjas, additional reading materials made available to the class and the in-class slides of the instructor will form the basis for the material covered in the exams and will be made available to the students online.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	<p>Criteria are standard: in exams correct procedure and solution counts. In addition, solutions to problems require the ability to summarize, evaluate, and establish relationships between topics, and skills in critical thinking. The writing assignment also requires clear reasoning and good written communication and the presentation oral communication skills.</p>
Required Readings	<p>George J. Borjas, Labor Economics (McGraw-Hill, 7th edition 2013)</p> <p>Selected articles will be uploaded to the reserve collection as required readings.</p>
Supplementary Readings	<p>Mankiw, G. 2014, Principles of Economics. 7th Edition. Cengage Learning. Including previous editions for review of basic microeconomic tools.</p> <p>Tito Boeri and Jan van Ours, The Economics of Imperfect Labor Markets (Princeton University Press, 2nd edition 2013)</p> <p>Ronald G. Ehrenberg and Robert S. Smith, Modern Labor Economics Theory and Public Policy (Pearson, 12th edition 2105)</p>
Further Information	
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p>No poverty, Good health and well-being, Reduced inequalities, Gender equality, Decent work and economic growth, Quality education</p>