

Econ 480-002: Labor Economics

UNC at Chapel Hill, Department of Economics
Fall 2021

Instructor Information:

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Class Schedule:

Class Hours: M, W 12:20 pm to 1:35pm at Stone Center 209
Office Hours: Tu, Th 2-3 pm at Gardner 402

Grader:

Jiaxi Li
Email:

Course Materials:

Textbook: G. J. Borjas, *Labor Economics*, 5th, 6th or 7th Edition, McGraw-Hill. Macroeconomics
Software: Assignments, announcements, grades, class notes, exams and other information will be posted at sakai.unc.edu. Sakai will be the primary method of communication for this course, so please check it frequently.

Course Credit:

Students can not receive credit for both Econ 380 and Econ 480.
Econ 400 and Econ 410 are pre-requisites for this course.

Course Goals: This course covers classic topics in labor economics. Labor economics studies a peculiar market where workers supply labor and firms demand labor in exchange for a wage. We apply models and concepts from your core economics courses to analyze how labor markets function. Students will then use the specific and unique characteristics of the good traded in the labor market to study human capital and discrimination applications.

The course will emphasize evaluating models and policies using economic theory, data analysis, and econometrics. By the end of the course, students should gain the tools to explore policy implications in topics such as wage determination, human capital accumulation, discrimination. The text for the course will provide a rough guide of the topics we will cover. However, lectures will provide much supplemental material. The syllabus is subject to change. The honor code is in effect.

Code of Conduct: The University Honor Code is in effect. Students are allowed to study in groups but all work submitted must be your own. Moreover, non-academic use of personal electronic devices is prohibited.

Grading	% of Course Grade	Date	Details & Policy
Final Exam	(35%)		The final is a comprehensive exam. Missing the Final Exam without a valid excuse from the Dean will result in a zero exam score. The instructor will provide more information and guidelines about exams at least a week prior to the exam date.
Midterm 1	(20%)	10/04/21	Midterm will cover Labor Supply and Labor Demand. Missing the Midterm without an excused absence results in a zero score for that Test. The instructor will provide more information and guidelines about exams at least a week prior to the exam date.
Midterm 2	(20%)	10/27/21	Midterm will cover Labor Market Equilibrium. Missing the Midterm without an excused absence results in a zero score for that Test. The instructor will provide more information and guidelines about exams at least a week prior to the exam date.
Homework	(25%)	TBD	There will be several homework assignments throughout the semester. If you miss an assignment due to an excused absence, your Homework grade will be reweighted among the remaining homework assignments. However, you can only miss one homework assignment. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Students associated with Disability Services must contact me one week prior to each Test.

Excused Absences: Illness or participation in University sanctioned activities. Documentation from coach or doctor must be provided.

Students that miss a graded assignment due to an excused absence such as an illness or university related activity may have the assignment dropped from consideration.

A	$x \geq 95\%$
A-	$90 \leq x < 95$
B+	$85 \leq x < 90$
B	$80 \leq x < 85$
B-	$75 \leq x < 80$
C+	$70 \leq x < 75$
C	$65 \leq x < 70$
C-	$60 \leq x < 65$
D+	$55 \leq x < 60$
D	$50 \leq x < 55$
F	$x < 50$

Syllabus Changes: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, including homework and test dates. These changes will be announced as early as possible.

Tentative Course Outline

Week 1-4 *Labor Supply*

Measurements, Labor supply decisions, Policy Applications

Weeks 5-7 *Labor Demand*

Production function, Labor demand curve, Policy applications

Weeks 8-10 *Equilibrium*

Single Market Equilibrium, Across Markets, Policy Applications

Week 11-13 *Application 1: Human Capital*

Endogenous schooling decisions, Returns to schooling, Signaling, On-the-job Training

Week 14-15 *Application 2: Discrimination*

Taste discrimination, measuring discrimination