Instructor: Insoo Cho
E-mail: icho@stlawu.edu
Phone: (315) 229-5207
Office: Hepburn 205
Unavailable Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:30AM to 2:30PM and after 5:00PM

Lecture Schedule: M/W 12:00–1:30, Hepburn Hall, Room 21

Course Objective

This course is an introduction to the analysis of labor economics. The primary purpose of this course is to learn a working knowledge of labor market models and to build a facility for applying these models to policy. Topics include the basics of labor markets; labor demand and supply; human capital investment; wage determination; income distribution; discrimination and inequality; and public policies affecting the labor market.

Required Textbook


- Sakai: https://sakai.stlawu.edu/
  This is a course site where I will post assignments, answer keys, additional study material, and announcements for this course. You should be able to login to Sakai as a registered student.

Exams

There will be two midterms and one comprehensive final. Exams are in the format of multiple choice questions and short answer questions.

Exam dates
Midterm 1: Wednesday, October 3
Midterm 2: Wednesday, November 7
Final Exam: Monday, December 17 8:30 – 11:30a.m.
  - The midterms can be rescheduled depending on how much we cover.
**Problem sets**

There will be several required problem sets. These problem sets must be handed in by the start of class on the due date. *No late problem sets will be accepted.* Submitted problem sets must be neat and legible. Problem sets are a good practice for your exams.

**Quizzes**

There will also be surprise quizzes during the classes. These are small group activities. You will be given an essay question and work in a group (e.g., 3 students in a group).

**Short essay on policy debate (labor market issues)**

2. Choose one of the topics listed
3. Summarize the authors’ main arguments in the “Issues and Background” section using your own words. **Avoid Plagiarism.** Click “Full debate” and author name to access full text of an article. The goal of this summary section is to demonstrate your understanding of both sides of the debates (about 1 page).
4. Write your own views on the subject you choose (about 1/2~1 page).
5. A good paper will incorporate knowledge learned in class or from the text book.
6. Writing format:
   - Times New Roman font 12pt
   - 1 inch margins all around
   - Double-spaced
   - Staple everything together
   - Don’t forget to include your name and ID number
   - SAVE a copy of your work in case it gets lost
7. Paper due is the last day of class (Dec. 12)
**Grading Distribution and Scale**

Midterm 1: 15%
Midterm 2: 20%
Final exam: 30%
Problem sets: 15%
Quizzes: 10%
Short essay: 10%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading scale</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grading scale</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>100 – 95</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>74 – 73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>94 – 90</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>72 – 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>89 – 86</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>69 – 68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.25</td>
<td>85 – 83</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>67 – 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>82 – 80</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>64 – 63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>79 – 78</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>62 – 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>77 – 75</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Outline**

**Part I: Basics of Labor Market and Unemployment**

Introduction (Ch.1) Labor Economics: some basic concepts
Overview of the Labor Market (Ch.2)
Unemployment (Ch.14)

**Part II: Labor Demand**

Demand for Labor (Ch. 3)
Labor Demand Elasticities (Ch. 4)
Frictions in the Labor Market (Ch. 5: 127-151)

**Part III: Labor Supply**

Supply of Labor to the Economy: The Decision to Work (Ch. 6)
Labor Supply: Household Production, the Family, and the Life Cycle (Ch. 7)

**Part IV: Human Capital Investment**

Frictions in the Labor Market (Ch. 5: 152-161)
Investments in Human Capital: Education and Training (Ch. 9)
Worker Mobility: Migration, Immigration, and Turnover (Ch. 10)
Part V: Compensation, Discrimination & Earnings Inequality

Compensation (Ch. 8 & 11)
Discrimination (Ch. 12)
Earnings Inequality (Ch. 15)