

ECON6303

Economics of Labour Markets

Course Outline

Semester 2, 2017

Course-Specific Information

The Business School expects that you are familiar with the contents of this course outline. You must also be familiar with the Course Outlines Policies webpage which contains key information on:

- Program Learning Goals and Outcomes
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Student Responsibilities and Conduct
- Special Consideration
- Student Support and Resources

This webpage can be found on the Business School website:

<https://www.business.unsw.edu.au/degrees-courses/course-outlines/policies>

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1 STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Lecturer-in-charge: Geni Dechter

Location: Room 3123 QUAD

Phone: 9385 7478

Email: e.dechter@unsw.edu.au

Consultation Times: Friday 11-14 (or by appointment)

1.1 Communications with lecturer

You should feel free to contact the lecturer-in-charge for any general inquiries.

Discussion of course subject material will not be entered into via lengthy emails. For these matters a meeting during consultation time is advised.

2 COURSE DETAILS

2.1 Teaching Times and Locations

Lectures start in Week 1 (to Week 12): The time(s) and location(s) is/are:
Wednesday 9:00-12:00, Business School 205.

2.2 Units of Credit

The course is worth 6 units of credit.

This course is taught in parallel to both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

2.3 Summary of Course

The course teaches core topics in the field of labour economics as well as introduces empirical methods for applied microeconomic analysis. The aim of this course is to encourage development of independent research interests in labour economics and relates fields. Topics include wage and employment determination, formation of human capital, labour market discrimination, immigration, unemployment, wage differentials, wage structure, and institutions in the labour market. There will be particular emphasis on the interaction between theoretical and empirical modelling.

2.4 Aims and Relationship to Other Courses

ECON4104/6303 provides a broad introduction to the economic analysis of labour markets issues and relies considerably on microeconomic methods. Concepts learned in Advance Micro and Macro analysis courses will be utilized. Additional microeconomic tools appropriate for the analysis of labour markets will be reviewed in class.

2.5 Student Learning Outcomes

The Course Learning Outcomes are what you should be able to DO by the end of this course if you participate fully in learning activities and successfully complete the assessment items.

The Learning Outcomes in this course also help you to achieve some of the overall Program Learning Goals and Outcomes for all students in the BUSINESS SCHOOL. Program Learning Goals are what we want you to BE or HAVE by the time you successfully complete your degree. You demonstrate this by achieving specific Program Learning Outcomes - what you are able to DO by the end of your degree.

For more information on Program Learning Goals and Outcomes, see the School's Course Outlines Policies webpage available at <https://www.business.unsw.edu.au/degrees-courses/course-outlines/policies>.

The following table shows how your Course Learning Outcomes relate to the overall Program Learning Goals and Outcomes, and indicates where these are assessed:

Program Learning Goals and Outcomes		Course Learning Outcomes	Course Assessment Item
<i>This course helps you to achieve the following learning goals</i>		<i>On successful completion of the course, you should be able to:</i>	<i>This learning outcome will be assessed in the following items:</i>
1	Knowledge	Understand the structure and assumptions of standard models of labour economics. Use statistical skills to present data relevant to problems in labour economics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation • Exams • Replication project • Presentation
2	Critical thinking and problem solving	Use economic models to explain the behaviour of labour market variables. Critically engage with explanations for current labour market problems arising from inefficiency or other issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation • Exams • Replication project • Presentation
3a	Written communication	Construct written work which is logically and professionally presented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exams • Replication project
3b	Oral communication	Communicate ideas in a succinct and clear manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation • Presentation
4	Teamwork	Work collaboratively to complete a task.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replication project
5a	Ethical, environmental and sustainability considerations	Identify and assess environmental and sustainability considerations in problems in labour markets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation • Exams • Replication project • Presentation
5b	Social and cultural awareness	Understand individual differences through a range of topics and practical examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation • Exams • Replication project • Presentation

3 LEARNING AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES

3.1 Approach to Learning and Teaching in the Course

The philosophy underpinning this course and its Teaching and Learning Strategies are based on “Guidelines on Learning that Inform Teaching at UNSW. These guidelines may be viewed at: www.guidelinesonlearning.unsw.edu.au. Specifically, the lectures and assessments have been designed to appropriately challenge students and support the achievement of the desired learning outcomes. A climate of inquiry and dialogue is encouraged between students and teachers and among students (in and out of class). The lecturers and tutors aim to provide [meaningful and timely feedback to students to improve learning outcome](#).

3.2 Learning Activities and Teaching Strategies

The examinable content of the course is defined by the references given in the Lecture Schedule and the content of Lecture meetings.

Lectures

The purpose of Lectures is to provide a logical structure for the topics that make up the course; to emphasize the important concepts and methods of each topic, and to provide relevant examples to which the concepts and methods are applied.

Out-of-Class Study

While students may have preferred individual learning strategies, it is important to note that most learning will be achieved outside of class time. Lectures can only provide a structure to assist your study, and lecture time is limited.

An “ideal” strategy (on which the provision of the course materials is based) might include:

- Reading of the relevant chapter(s) of the text and any readings **before the lecture**. This will give you a general idea of the topic area.
- Attendance at lectures. Here the context of the topic in the course and the important elements of the topic are identified. The relevance of the topic should be explained.

4 ASSESSMENT

4.0 You must complete the “Working with Academic Integrity” module on your Moodle site, before you hand in any written work.

- You **MUST** complete the ‘Working with Academic Integrity’ module AND THE MODULE’S QUIZ, found on your course Moodle site, **BEFORE YOU ARE ALLOWED TO SUBMIT ANY WRITTEN ASSESSMENT**.
- If your submission is delayed because you did not complete the module and the quiz, you may be liable to late penalties as specified in your course outline.
- Failing to comply with the University rules of Academic integrity may result in serious consequences:
 - All cases of plagiarism (regardless of their severity) ARE recorded with the University Integrity Office University register.
 - Depending on the level of the plagiarism/misconduct, the penalties may include a FAIL grade for the assessment piece, a FAIL grade for the course, or being expelled for serious/repeat offences.

Any misconduct, including plagiarism, is recorded on your Conduct Record. If you have only one academic misconduct at the lowest level (level A) in your career, then the record is wiped clear when you graduate. Otherwise it remains there permanently. *Many professions, such as accounting and law, require access to the student’s Conduct Record.*

4.1 Formal Requirements

In order to pass this course, you must:

- achieve a composite mark of at least 50 out of 100; and
- make a satisfactory attempt at ALL assessment tasks. This means a mark of at least 40% in all assessment items.

4.2 Assessment Details

	Assessment Task	Weighting	Length	Due Date
1	Participation and contribution to discussions (tutorial and class)	20%		
2	Mid-session Exam	20%	120 minutes	Week 7
3	Replication project and presentation	40%	TBA	TBA
4	Final Exam	20%	120 minutes	University Exam Period
	TOTAL	100%		

4.3 Late Submission

Late submission will be considered only in extreme circumstances. Any student, who for reasons of **serious illness cannot submit at the required time**, will need **full and convincing documentation of that illness** which must cover the period of 4 days prior to the submission deadline.

For information on Special Consideration please refer to the Business [School's Course Outlines Policies webpage](#). Applications for special consideration must be **lodged online through myUNSW within 3 working days of the assessment** (Log into myUNSW and go to My Student Profile tab > My Student Services channel > Online Services > Special Consideration). Then submit the originals or certified copies of your [supporting documentation](#) and a completed [Professional Authority form \(pdf - download here\)](#) to Student Central.

In cases where students have applied for special consideration, the assessment item must still be submitted, with requirement that it be submitted to the lecturer-in-charge/course administrator within three working days of the submission date or it will not be marked.

Employment obligations or holiday plans of any kind are not acceptable reasons for late submission of an assessment item.

4.4 Class and tutorial participation assessment

In every class we will cover one or more research papers. Students are expected to read these papers before the class and contribute to discussions. If tutorial discussion questions are assigned, students will be asked to participate and contribute their answers. Both tutorial and class participation can contribute up to 20 points to the course mark.

4.5 Replication project and presentation

The objective of this exercise is to develop practical knowledge. In essence, students will choose a study and replicate the data work. They will submit a write-up along with an archive of all code and data used for the replication. Details of this assignment will be provided in Week 1 of the course.

Presentation: You can present the paper you are replicating in class or you can choose a different paper for presentation (from a provided list).

4.6 Midsession Exam

There will be a 2-hours mid-session exam in week 7. The exam will cover weeks 1 to 6. The test will be held during class time and in the usual class room. It will examine materials covered in the previous lectures. More details on the examinable material will be provided during lectures.

There will be **NO supplementary tests** offered for the mid-session exam. You should make every effort to take the mid-session exam. Students who fail to attend the examination will need to apply for Special Consideration. For information on Special Consideration please refer to the Business School's [Course Outlines Policies webpage](#).

In cases of serious illness, students will need full and convincing documentation of that illness. Students who are found to be genuinely too ill to have attended the exam will have their mark in the final exam re-weighted to include the mark reserved for the missed test. In all other cases of non-attendance students will receive a grade of zero. Employment obligations or holiday plans of any kind are not acceptable reasons for absence from any test/examination.

Applications for special consideration must be **lodged online through myUNSW within 3 working days of the assessment** (Log into myUNSW and go to My Student Profile tab > My Student Services channel > Online Services > Special Consideration). Then submit the originals or certified copies of your [supporting documentation](#) and a completed [Professional Authority form \(pdf - download here\)](#) to Student Central.

4.7 Final Exam Format

This will be held in the University examination period and will be 2 hours long. More information about the structure of the final exam will be provided later in the semester.

4.8 Protocol for viewing final exam scripts

The UNSW Business School has set a protocol under which students may view their final exam script. Please check the protocol [here](#).

4.9 Quality Assurance

The Business School is actively monitoring student learning and quality of the student experience in all its programs. A random selection of completed assessment tasks may be used for quality assurance, such as to determine the extent to which program learning goals are being achieved. The information is required for accreditation purposes, and aggregated findings will be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of Business School programs. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential and will not be related to course grades.

5 COURSE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the School and continual improvements are made based on this feedback. UNSW's myExperience Survey Tool is one of the ways in which student evaluative feedback is gathered. You are strongly encouraged to take part in the feedback process.

6 COURSE RESOURCES

The website for this course is on UNSW Moodle at: <http://moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au>

A detailed reading list for each topic is to be provided.

Course is based on a collection of papers and each topic will discuss a number of papers.

There is no required textbook for this subject. Reference to the following textbooks may be useful in providing basic theories used to analyse labour markets.

- R.G. Ehrenberg and R.S. Smith (2009), *Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy*, tenth edition, Pearson
- P. Cahuc and A. Zylberberg (2004), *Labor Economics*, MIT Press.
- C. Pissarides (2000), *Equilibrium Unemployment Theory*, MIT press

7 COURSE SCHEDULE

7.1 Lecture Schedule

Changes are possible.

LECTURE SCHEDULE		
Week	Topic	Assigned Reading
Week 1 24 July	Intro; Labour Supply	
Week 2 31 July	Labour Supply	
Week 3 7 August	Careers, human capital and life cycle	
Week 4 14 August	Returns to education	
Week 5 21 August	Returns to experience and on-the-job training	
Week 6 28 August	Production of education	
Week 7 4 September	MID-SESSION EXAM	
Week 8 11 September	Wage distribution	
Week 9 18 September	Technological change	
Mid-semester break: 23 September – 2 October inclusive (2 Oct = Labour Day Public Holiday)		

Week 10 3 October	Discrimination	
Week 11 9 October	Migration	
Week 12 16 October	Minimum wages	