

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

APPLIED LABOUR ECONOMICS
ECNM10112

Semester 1 – 2023-24

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Overview and Aims

This course is an overview course in Applied Labour Economics. Its aim is to familiarise students both with the standard theoretical concepts in the analysis of labour markets, as well as with the empirical methodology and evidence. As such, it is complementary to other courses in Labour Economics, but also to courses in Education Economics, Applied Econometrics, and the Economics of Taxation. In addition, it should also be a good preparation for your own empirical work and writing of applied research papers.

Topics include labour supply and labour demand, wage polarization and labour market inequality, intergenerational mobility, market power of firms and workers, causes and consequences of immigration, discrimination, and gender economics.

Course Organization

Lectures: there will be the equivalent of 1 x 2hr lectures per week for 10 weeks (Weeks 1-10).
Time: Wednesday: 09.10-11.00 am.

Tutorials: there will be biweekly tutorials of one hour, starting in **Week 2**. Times and Venues: please check on LEARN. Problem sets will be posted on LEARN beforehand and are part of the course examination (details see below).

Tutorials will be automatically assigned based on each student's individual timetable. Students can find which tutorial they are meant to attend through their personalised timetable available on LEARN.

Textbooks

There is no dedicated textbook, but the following is a good source that covers many of the topics also covered in this course:

George Borjas, *Labor Economics*, 8th edition, McGrawHill 2019

Syllabus (Lectures)

Part 1 (Stephan Maurer)

Week 1: Introduction and Labour Supply

Week 2: Labour Demand

Week 3: Wage inequality Part 1

Week 4: Wage inequality Part 2

Week 5: Intergenerational Mobility

Part 2 (Cesar Garro-Marín)

Week 6: Market Power

Week 7: Migration Part 1

Week 8: Migration Part 2

Week 9: Discrimination

Week 10: Gender

Week 11: Reading week

Components of Assessment

A 2 hour degree examination in December 2023 (90%).

Problem sets (10%). There will be a total of five problem sets that will form the basis for the tutorials. Problem sets will have to be submitted before the tutorials (details will be communicated in the first week of teaching on Learn). Students are expected to show reasonable effort on the problem sets. Each problem set submitted in time and with reasonable effort will count as two full percentage points for the final exam mark. Students are encouraged to work on the problem sets in groups, but each student must submit their own solutions.

Course Assessment for Visiting/Exchange Students

Visiting/exchange students must complete all the assessment components for the course outlined above.

Exercise Answers, sample exams and feedback

Weekly exercises: Answers to tutorial exercises will be posted on LEARN after the session has taken place.

Sample exams: Exam samples for the Final Exam will be posted on LEARN during the course.

Accessibility

If you require this document or any of the internal University of Edinburgh online resources mentioned in this document in an alternative format, please contact the Undergraduate Manager Hazel Blair (H.Blair@ed.ac.uk).