

Syllabus

Course description

Course title	Labor Economics
Course code	27224
Scientific sector	ECON-02/A (ex SECS-P/03)
Degree	Bachelor Economics, Politics and Ethics
Semester and academic year	2nd semester 2025-26
Year	3rd year
Credits	7
Modular	No
Total lecturing hours	42
Total lab hours	--
Total exercise hours	12
Attendance	Highly Recommended, but not required
Prerequisites	Previous attendance of an introductory course in microeconomics is strongly suggested, to properly follow the lectures.
Course page	https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/bachelor-economics-politics-ethics/

Specific educational objectives	<p>The course belongs to the scientific area of labor economics and is a typical educational activity for any degree in Economics. The course gives a general overview on the subject and related scientific research. The course aims to link knowledge and understanding on labor economics through the application of basic skills in economic analysis.</p> <p>Students will develop the capacity to understand economic, social, cultural, and policy issues related to the labor market, as well as human capital acquisition. They will learn about how to apply economic concepts in the field and how to relate their knowledge to real world economic issues.</p>
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Lecturer	Steven Stillman, Office E3.03, steven.stillman@unibz.it , tel. 0471 013132, www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/36390-steven-stillman
Scientific sector of the lecturer	ECON-02/A (ex SECS/P-03)
Teaching language	English
Office hours	21 hours Prof. Stillman Cockpit – students' zone – individual timetable Webpage:

	https://www.unibz.it/en/timetable/?department=26&degree=12833%2C13016
Lecturing assistant	None
Teaching assistant	Dott. Andrea Montalbano Andrea.Montalbano@student.unibz.it
List of topics covered	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
Teaching format	Lectures, discussions, small group projects, exercises, etc.
Learning outcomes	<p><u>Knowledge and understanding:</u> Students should know how analytical tools are used in labor economics and acquire knowledge on the theory of labor demand, labor supply, labor market equilibrium, and human capital acquisition.</p> <p><u>Applying knowledge and understanding:</u> Students should be able to comprehend and apply research contributions. They will learn how to interpret theoretical ideas and applied research results such as how individual labor market decisions are impacted by government policies.</p> <p><u>Making judgments:</u> Student should be able to reflect on specific problems and formulate judgments that include a critical reflection on the relevant social and economic issues involved.</p> <p><u>Communication skills:</u> Students should be able to communicate content, key concepts, research ideas, problems and solutions as well as research results to both a specialist and non-specialist audience.</p> <p><u>Learning skills:</u> Students are able to link economic theory and specific economic problems related to labor markets. They are expected to extend their knowledge acquired during the course autonomously by reading and understanding scientific research and analysis and to continue to undertake further study in order to do a literature review and to frame a proper research question.</p>
Assessment	A voluntary midterm and mandatory final exam, both written, as well as a mandatory writing assignment and presentation. Non-attendees are allowed to take the midterm exam and are encouraged to do the presentation.

	<p>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>For the exams neither textbooks, nor other teaching materials, nor any electronic devices are allowed in the examination room. Dictionaries without notes and simple calculators are permitted.</p>
Assessment language	English
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	<p>The final grade will be a weighted average of the writing assignment (25%), presentation (5%), midterm exam (35%) and final exam (35%). 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> <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	Mankiw, G. 2014, Principles of Economics. 7 th Edition.

	<p>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>
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