

Syllabus for ECON 443 LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS
2005 Summer Course
University of Washington, Seattle

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Instructor

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Labor Market Analysis

Determinants of employment and incomes in the United States: analysis of individual and firm decisions and of equilibrium in the labor market. Topics include decisions to work and to retire, education and occupation choices, compensation, discrimination, poverty, unemployment and unions. Examination of policy issues affecting the labor market. Prerequisite: 2.0 in ECON 300. (Same as Professor Shelly Lundberg's previous syllabus)

Class Description

In this course, we will analyze the determinants of employment and incomes in the U.S. and examine important policy issues affecting the labor market and the distribution of income. Topics include the demand for labor by firms and the determinants of wages, individual decisions regarding market vs. home work, retirement, and investment in education and training, poverty and inequality, race and gender discrimination, and union-management relations. Emphasis will be placed on policy and issues related to government intervention in the labor market-- minimum wage laws, public education, affirmative action, welfare reform, and unionization. (Same as Professor Shelly Lundberg's previous syllabus)

Recommended preparation

You will be expected to apply basic microeconomic analysis to problems in individual choice and market equilibrium (Economics 300 is a prerequisite) and to develop an understanding of the institutional framework in which the labor market operates. (Same as Professor Shelly Lundberg's previous syllabus)

Required Textbook

The required text is *Modern Labor Economics*, by Ronald Ehrenberg and Robert Smith, 9th edition, Addison Wesley, 2005.

Class Assignments and Grading Policy

There is a quiz of two multiple-choice questions for each class. This everyday quiz accounts for 10% of the course grade.

Three substantive problem sets will determine the remaining 30% of the grade.

The remaining 60% of the course grade will be based on midterm and final exams, which will be taken on July 6 and July 20, respectively.

Notice: Each of midterm and final exams will consist of forty multiple-choice questions and two short-answer questions. Most of questions in quizzes and problem sets will be included in midterm and final exams

The web page for this course will contain supplementary readings, as well as copies of the syllabus, lecture outlines, and assignments. It can be reached through my homepage at <http://www3.nccu.edu.tw/~jthuang/lma.html>