湖北工業大學
HUBEI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Course Title	Labor Economics
Course Code	ECON 3310
Semester	Spring 2027
Course Length	4 Weeks, 60 Contact Hours
Credits	4
Instructor	TBA
Office	TBA
Email	TBA
Prerequisite	ECON 1111 Microeconomics

Course Description:

Labor economics is the study of how labor markets function and the determinants of outcomes such as the extent of employment and the wage level. Topics we will cover include education & training, labor supply and welfare programs, migration, minimum wages and discrimination. All topics will be motivated by real-world examples and policy questions, so that you can see how this field of economics can enhance our understanding of how the world works.

Course Goals:

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following general education core goals:

- **Critical Thinking Skills** – Students will engage in analytical thinking, demonstrating the ability to critically evaluate, synthesize, and apply knowledge to complex problems, and construct well-reasoned solutions and arguments.
- **Independent Research and Inquiry** – Students will conduct independent research, utilizing academic resources to explore relevant topics, formulating research questions, analyzing data, and presenting findings in a coherent, scholarly manner.
- **Problem-Solving and Application** – Students will apply theoretical concepts and methodologies learned in the course to real-world problems, demonstrating the ability to develop practical solutions informed by academic inquiry.
- **Global and Cultural Awareness** – Students will gain awareness of the global and cultural contexts relevant to the course, appreciating diverse perspectives and considering the implications of their studies in a broader, international context.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- define key concepts related to labour markets;
- explain the optimization process behind labour supply and demand, analyze labour market equilibria and welfare programs;
- understand and analyze the effects of migration on labour markets, both in the short and long term.

Textbooks/Supplies/Materials/Equipment/ Technology or Technical Requirements:
Pierre Cahuc, Stéphane Carcillo, André Zylberberg (2014) *Labor Economics,* The MIT Press.

Course Requirements:

Quizzes
There will be quizzes throughout the semester at the beginning of random classes. Quizzes include multiple choice questions of varying difficulty to build familiarity with the material and to prepare you for the exams.

Problem Sets
There will be 5 problem sets. You may work in groups of up to three; make sure to put all individuals' names on submissions. However, I encourage students to attempt the problems individually first. Problem sets are the best practice for exams, so it is to your advantage to take them seriously.

Midterm Exam
The exam is closed-book, closed-notes, and will include all material covered prior to the exam. The exam includes multiple-choice questions to test general concepts and short answer questions that require you to work through an example.

Final Exam
The exam is closed-book, closed-notes and will draw from material covered in all classes. The exam includes multiple-choice and short-answer questions.

Assessments: Activity	**Percent Contribution**
Quizzes	20%
Problem Sets	30%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%

Grading:

Final grades will be based on the sum of all possible course points as noted above.

Grade	**Percentage of available points**
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76

C-	70-73
D	64-69
D-	60-63
F	0-59

Course Schedule:
The schedule of activities is subject to change at the reasonable discretion of the instructor. Minor changes will be announced in class, major ones provided in writing.

ECON 3310 Schedule

Lecture	Topic	Readings
L1	Introduction Facts and Figures	Chapter 1
L2	Basic Definitions and Statistics Employment Income and Wages Education	Chapter 1
L3	Labor Supply Static and Dynamic Labor Supply **Problem Set 1 due**	Chapter 1
L4	Dynamic Labor Supply: The Life-Cycle Model Estimating Labor Supply Elasticities	Chapter 1
L5	Household Production and Time Allocation in the Family Family Labor Supply Fertility Decisions	Chapter 1
L6	Labor Demand and Labor Market Equilibrium Labor Demand and Equilibrium under Perfect Competition	Chapter 2
L7	Imperfect Labor Markets and Unemployment Monopsony, Minimum Wages, and Unions **Problem Set 2 due**	Chapter 2,5
L8	Unemployment Labor Markets with Perfect Competition	Chapter 2,5
L9	Labor Markets with Frictions	Chapter 2,5
L10	Human Capital and Schooling Human Capital Theory Life-Cycle Wage Profiles	Chapter 4
L11	Returns to Education The Mincer Wage Equation Empirical Strategies for Causal Inference in Applied Microeconomics	Chapter 4
L12	School Organization School Resources School Incentives **Problem Set 3 due**	Chapter 4
L13	**Midterm Exam**	---
L14	Wage Inequality Wage Inequality and Technological Change	Chapter 3,11
L15	Occupational Tasks and Labor Market Polarization	Chapter 3,11
L16	Migration Immigration Empirical Patterns of Immigration	Chapter 11
L17	A Theory of Immigrant and Native Labor	Chapter 11

	Empirical Estimates of Immigrants' Impact on Native Workers Other Aspects of Immigration	
L18	Discrimination The Concept of Discrimination Statistical Discrimination Stereotype Threat **Problem Set 4 due**	Chapter 8
L19	Evidence for Discrimination The Gender Wage Gap	Chapter 8
L20	Audit Studies and Hiring Experiments Empirical Evaluation of Discrimination Theories	Chapter 8
L21	Social Environment Family Background Peers Effects Job Search Networks **Problem Set 5 due**	Chapter 5
L22	Contract, Collective Bargaining, and Labor Unions	Chapter 6,7
L23	Income Redistribution Taxation and Transfers The Minimum Wage	Chapter 12
L24	Insurance Policies Unemployment Insurance Employment Protection	Chapter 13
L25	**Final Exam**	---

Accommodation Statement:

Academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow.

Academic Integrity Statement

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

Other Items:

Attendance and Expectations

All students are required to attend every class, except in cases of illness, serious family concerns, or other major problems. We expect that students will arrive on time, be prepared to listen and participate as appropriate, and stay for the duration of a meeting rather than drift in or out casually. In short, we anticipate that students will show professors and fellow students maximum consideration by minimizing the disturbances that cause interruptions in the learning process. This means that punctuality is a must, that cellular phones be turned off, and that courtesy is the guiding principle in all exchanges among students and faculty. You will be responsible for the materials and ideas presented in the lecture.

Assignment Due Dates
All written assignments must be turned in at the time specified. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior information has been obtained from the instructor. If you believe you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Make-Up Work
The instructor will not provide students with class information or make-up assignments/quizzes/exams missed due to an unexcused absence. Absences will be excused and assignments/quizzes/exams may be made up only with written documentation of an authorized absence. Every effort should be made to avoid scheduling appointments during class. An excused student is responsible for requesting any missed information from the instructor and setting up any necessary appointments outside of class.

Access, Special Needs, and Disabilities
Please notify the instructor at the start of the semester if you have any documented disabilities, a medical issue, or any special circumstances that require attention, and the school will be happy to assist.