

# Labor Economics

## Fudan University

Department: School of Economics

<b>Course Code</b>	ECON130257		
<b>Course Title</b>	Labor Economics		
<b>Credit</b>	4	<b>Credit Hours</b>	72
<b>Course Nature</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific General Education Courses <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Core Courses <input type="checkbox"/> General Education Elective Courses <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Courses in General Discipline <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Compulsory Courses <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Professional advanced Courses <input type="checkbox"/> Others		
<b>Course Objectives</b>	Successful students will <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Understand labor economics models learnt in class</li><li>● 2. Understand research papers covered in class</li><li>● 3. Replicate a selected research paper and propose a future study</li></ul>		
<b>Course Description</b>	<p>This course is designed as an advanced elective course on Labor Economics for undergraduate students. The purpose of this course is to use analytic tools from intermediate microeconomics to study a wide range of labor-related issues. It will consist three parts. The first part is theory. We will study classic models of labor supply and labor demand, how labor market reaches equilibrium, the formation of wages, immigration issues, and labor market discrimination, etc. We will study Chinese labor market in the second part. One of the reasons is that the labor market in China is to some extent unique and it is worthwhile to examine whether traditional labor economics models successfully predict what happens in Chinese labor market. In the last part, we will study how government policies affect labor market outcomes, and we will particularly focus on U.S. labor market. In practice, these three parts will not be discussed separately, instead, we will discuss selected empirical research papers following the theoretical models under each topic.</p>		

**Course Requirements:**  
**Prerequisites:**  
 Students must have learnt

- Intermediate Microeconomics
- Stata

**Teaching Methods:**  
 Lecture, presentation, group discussion

**Instructor's Academic Background:**

- Ph.D., Economics, University of Houston May 2018  
 Dissertation Titled : "Essays on Gender Inequality in China"
- M.A., Economics, University of Houston May 2014
- M.A., Economics, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, China June 2009
- B.A., Agriculture, China Agricultural University, Beijing, China June 2006

**Members of Teaching Team**

Name	Gender	Professional Title	Department	Responsibility
Zuo Xuejing	Female	Assistant professor	Public Economics	

**Course Schedule**

**Module1:**  
**Introduction: facts about employment and earnings; the supply and demand framework**

- 1.1. Introduction
- 1.2. Empirical methods: regression and differences-in-differences
- 1.3. Application: do immigrants take jobs from natives?

**Module2: Labor supply**

- 2.1. Introduction
- 2.2. Application: welfare and earned income tax credit (EITC)
- 2.3. Application: intertemporal substitution on the road and at the ballpark
- 2.4. Income effects on labor supply
- 2.5. Unemployment and unemployment insurance

**Module3: Home production and the decision to work; the economics of the family**

- 3.1. Introduction

- 3.2. Empirical methods: instrumental variables
- 3.3. Application: children and their parents' labor supply

**Module 4: The demand for labor, minimum wages, monopsony**

- 4.1. Introduction
- 4.2. Applications: minimum wages and labor supply shifts

**Module 5: Human capital, education, and training**

- 5.1. Introduction
- 5.2. Applications: the economic returns to all sorts of human capital
- 5.3. Applications: education production

**Module 6: The wage structure**

**Module 7: Discrimination**

- 7.1. Introduction
- 7.2. Application: the effects of anti-discrimination policy

**Final Exam**

**The design of class discussion or exercise, practice, experience and so on:**

**Class Structure**

**If you need a TA, please indicate the assignment of assistant:**

Yes, a TA is needed and will help the lecturer with the attendency, organization of group discussion.

**Grading & Evaluation:**

- Attendance: 10% (First three absences will be waived, you will lose 5% for the fourth absence and all 10% for the fifth)
- Homework: 25% (No late homework will be accepted)
- Replication: 30%
- Final(cumulative): 35% (No make-up exam will be arranged)

**Teaching Materials & References:**

- Required textbooks:  
George J. Borjas, Labor Economics
- Recommend textbooks:

**Econometrics**

[Angrist and Krueger] = Buy at Amazon Angrist, Joshua, and Alan Krueger. "Empirical Strategies in Labor Economics." Chapter 23 in The Handbook of Labor Economics. Vol. 3A. Edited by Orley C. Ashenfelter and David Card. San Diego, CA: Elsevier, Inc., 1999, pp. 1277-1366. ISBN: 9780444501875.

**Microeconomic Theory**

[Nicholson and Snyder] = Buy at Amazon Nicholson, Walter, and Christopher Snyder. *Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions*. 10th ed. Mason, OH: Thomson/South-Western, 2008. ISBN: 9780324585070.

[Deaton and Muellbauer] = Buy at Amazon Deaton, Angus, and John Muellbauer. *Economics and Consumer Behavior*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 1980. ISBN: 9780521296762.

**Labor Topics**

[Blau, et al.] = Buy at Amazon Blau, Francine D., Marianne A. Ferber, and Anne E. Winkler. *The Economics of Women, Men, and Work*. 6th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2009. ISBN: 9780136084259.

[Lang] = Buy at Amazon Lang, Kevin. *Poverty and Discrimination*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2007. ISBN: 9780691119540.