

ECON 8410 – Fall 2020

Labor Economics I

Instructor: Ian M. Schmutte	Class: M 9:10–11:40 AM Orkin Hall 207
Office: Amos B408	Office Hours: Tues. 2:45–3:45 PM
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The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

COVID-19 Modifications

- *Course Delivery:* This class is a seminar, and we will meet for synchronous instruction during the usual meeting time. ***Please note that the delivery method may change as need warrants.***
- *First Meeting:* The first meeting for this course on August 24 will be held synchronously over Zoom. At that meeting, I will explain the protocol for our remaining meetings. I will circulate the information for the Zoom meeting via the Slack channel and by e-mail to all registered students.
- *Instructional Method:* I plan to use a hyflex approach for this class. Students will be able to synchronously view and participate in the lectures remotely. The assigned classroom is sufficient to accommodate all face-to-face instruction demands.
- *Participation and Attendance Policy:* Attendance and participation in all synchronous lectures is expected, but not required.
- *Policies for exams:* There will be no exams this semester. You will submit all homework and projects to me via email.

Reading (strongly recommended)

- Cahuc, Carcillo, and Zylberberg (2014) *Labor Economics*, Second Edition, MIT Press.

Course Objectives: This is the first of a two-course sequence in labor economics for graduate students in Economics who have completed their preliminary coursework. We will develop an understanding of the fundamental questions, models, methods, and results in labor economics. We will also develop familiarity with the main sources of labor market data. By the end of the course sequence, you should be able to pick up any academic article in labor economics, understand what the paper does and why. The ultimate goal is to prepare you to conduct new research in labor economics. Toward that end, we will carefully study the literature on a few topics with the aim of locating the research frontier.

Course Communication: We will use a Slack workspace as the primary form of communication outside of class. It is the platform I will use to share course materials and syllabus updates. We should also use it to keep the conversation going between class meetings. Use this link to find the workspace: <https://uga-labor-economics.slack.com/>. Contact me to get an invitation to join as a member.

Assessment:

- Homework (35%)
- Literature Review (30%)
- Replications (35%)

Homework: I will give several homework assignments. These assignments will combine analytical exercises and empirical work to reinforce course material.

Replications: You will replicate and extend the empirical results of several papers in labor economics. Upon completion, you will submit a complete code archive and a report describing your findings.

Literature Review: Over the course of the semester, you will write a thorough review of the literature in a particular area of labor economics. The purpose of this literature review is to characterize the state-of-the art in knowledge on a particular subject, and to describe how we arrived at the current research frontier. In particular, your literature review should highlight several open questions that have not yet been addressed in that literature. Your review should follow a structure similar to a paper in the *Journal of Economic Literature* or a chapter from the *Handbook of Labor Economics*.

Research Tools: You will need to use some package for econometric or statistical analysis I can help you with SAS, Stata, MATLAB, and maybe R. I will also expect you to submit written assignments that have been typeset using L^AT_EX. We will also have occasion to interact with the version control system, `git`, and the Github platform. This is not a methods course, and I will not devote much time to teaching specific tools.

Topics Covered (subject to change):

1. Labor Supply
2. Labor Demand
3. Labor Market Equilibrium
4. Self-Selection and Sorting
5. Labor Market Data
6. Search in the Labor Market
7. Contracts between Firms and Workers
8. Imperfect Labor Market Competition
9. Discrimination
10. Human Capital
11. Inequality

UGA Student Honor Code: “I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others.” A Culture of Honesty, the University’s policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at www.uga.edu/ovpi.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources: If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>).

If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.

Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.