

ECON 8420 – Spring 2020

Labor Economics II

Instructor: Ian M. Schmutte	Class: W 9–1130am
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This syllabus is a general plan for the course. Deviations announced to the class take precedence.

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

Course Objectives: This is the second of a two-course doctoral-level sequence in labor economics. Our primary goal is to produce new research that contributes to the field of economics. Toward that end, we will carefully study the literature on a few topics with the aim of locating the research frontier.

Assessment:

- Final Exam (30%)
- Class Presentations (30%)
- Paper (40%)
- Attendance (see below)

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. You can miss one class, no questions asked. Each additional absence has a cost of 3 percent of your final course grade. I will grant excused absences, but only in cases of true emergency accompanied by appropriate documentation.

Class Presentations: Every other week, students will present papers assigned by me. These papers will be assigned in advance. Each student will present approximately once every four weeks. In the weeks when you are not presenting, you will need to prepare brief, 5 minute, summaries of the papers being presented by the other students. I will provide more details of this process during class.

Research Proposal: You must complete an original research paper on a topic of your choosing. Your paper must be directly related to labor economics. You should emulate the structure of papers appearing in *American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings* or the *American Economic Review: Insights*

Exam: I will give a cumulative take-home final during the examination period