

Syllabus: Labor Seminar

Professor Julia Schwenkenberg
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Time and Location: T/R 10:00am -11:20am

Office Hours: Thursdays 1-2 pm on ZOOM
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Canvas Site: <https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/170620>

Description: This is a writing intensive seminar with emphasis on detailed written analysis and interpretation of data and models, education and their location decisions. We'll student presentations, data analysis and writing assignments. While mathematics is the language of economics, we spend less time on solving theoretical models, but more on the intuitions behind the models and on empirical applications. We study labor supply and demand, the determinants of individual wages

and what drives people's investment in education and their location decisions. We'll cover important current policy debates around issues such as labor shortages, immigration, minimum wages, universal basic income, CEO pay, and Unions. We also discuss technological changes (AI, robots) affecting the labor market as well as discrimination in the labor market.

Learning Goals:

- Understand basic theoretical models in labor econ and their assumptions
- Employ these models to make predictions and compare to real world outcomes
- Begin to read and interpret basic scholarly articles including statistical tables and regression results
- Begin to critically assess academic literature, policy studies, and newspaper articles
- Strengthen analytical writing skills, i.e. formulate hypotheses, structure short policy analyses, write critical literature review
- Being able to contrast different interpretations of statistical evidence and theoretical models and understand resulting different views on economic policy
- Improve ability to understand past and present interrelationships among diverse political, social, racial/ethnic and/or gender groups

Textbook/Readings: Recommended: George J. Borjas, Labor Economics, 8/e
Harvard University-Cambridge

Required academic papers and media will be posted on Canvas

Grading: Assignments (4): 60 %
Presentation: 10 %
Participation: 10 % Final Paper : 20 %

If you are unable to submit an assignment by the due date or miss your presentation date you MUST have a verifiable excuse (a doctor's note) and let me know BEFORE the presentation or by the due date, otherwise you will get a 0% for the assignment/presentation.

Please note the University's policy on academic integrity and plagiarism
<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

All papers will be checked using the turnitin software: <https://turnitin.com/static/index.php>

All submissions must be preceded by the RU honor's pledge:
"On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment)."

Working with the writing center on your essays and paper is legitimate assistance and is encouraged!

Writing Center: <https://sas.n.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic>
<https://sas.n.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic> [support/writing-center/writing-support-undergraduate-students](https://writing-center/writing-support-undergraduate-students)

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at 15% each.

Requirements and Class Policies:

Assignments:

4 typed assignments submitted to Canvas.

Essay questions and/or data exercises asking you to analyze policies using models, statistics, and graphs. Assignments are weighted equally

Term Paper:

2400-2800 words (not including references and tables), 12 point font, 1.5 spaced. Submit as a word doc or pdf file on Canvas (Rubric will be posed there).

• connect your analysis to the theoretical

foundations studied in class • use evidence from different studies to make your points. • provide contrasting points of view, pros and cons of policies • include empirical statistics and regression results.

paper topic

Class participation:

• You are expected to attend every class and actively participate in class discussions, comment, and answer questions on the material and your classmates' presentations. If you miss more than 30 minutes of class attendance counts as 50%.

Presentations:

• Each of you is required to give a 10-15 minute in-class presentation on your term

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week	Course Outline	Due
<u>Check Canvas for dates, assignments, details on topics, readings, and presentation schedules</u>		
1	Introduction	
2	Labor Supply Theory and Applications	
3	Econometrics Review	ASSIGNMENT 1
4	Labor Demand	
5	Labor Market Equilibrium	ASSIGNMENT 2
6	Immigration	
7	Education: Mincer Earnings Regression	ASSIGNMENT 3
8	Selection of Topics and presentation groups	
SPRING BREAK		
9	Labor Market Discrimination	ASSIGNMENT 4
10	Wage Distribution, Technology and Bargaining Power	
11	Topics A Presentations	
12	Topics B Presentations	
13	Topics C Presentations PAPER DRAFTS DUE	

14	Topics D Presentations	
MAY 10	FINAL PAPERS DUE	

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Rutgers–Newark Resources

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

- **Students with Disabilities:** Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact ODS, register, have an initial appointment, and provide documentation. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and documentation submitted) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided to the student. The student must give the LOA to each course instructor, followed by a discussion with the instructor. This should be completed as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or ods@newark.rutgers.edu.
- **Religious Holiday Policy and Accommodations:** Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule. The Division of Student Affairs is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed: (973) 353-5063 or DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu.
- **Counseling Services:** Counseling Center Room 101, Blumenthal Hall, (973) 353-5805 or [Link](#)
- **Students with Temporary Conditions/Injuries:** Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate in their courses should submit a request for assistance at: [Link](#)
- **Students Who are Pregnant:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist students with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

• **Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** Students experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, should know that help and support are available. To report an incident, contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. To submit an incident report: 220: 407:Q1 Labor Seminar Spring 2022 Department of Economics, Rutgers-Newark

tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. To speak with a staff member who is confidential and does **NOT** have a reporting responsibility, contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: (973) 353-1918 or run.vpva@rutgers.edu.

Learning Resources:

• Rutgers Learning Center (academic coaching)
Room 140, Bradley Hall
(973) 353-5608
<https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/learning-center/academic-coaching>

• Writing Center (tutoring and writing workshops)
Room 126, Conklin Hall
(973) 353-5847
nwc@rutgers.edu
<https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center>