

Syllabus: Economics of Labor
Professor Julia Schwenkenberg
Email: julia.schwenkenberg@rutgers.edu

**Course Time
and Location**

Mondays 2:30-3:50pm Wednesdays 1-2:20pm
CON-455

Office Hour

Wednesdays 3:30-4:30 pm

Description:

The course will introduce you to theories in labor economics and their applications. You will learn about topics such as labor supply, labor demand, education, discrimination, income distribution, as well as the future of work and robots. We'll also think about shocks to the labor market such as pandemics. Finally, we will discuss government policies affecting the labor market and human capital investments such as minimum wages, cash transfers, and college tuition subsidies.

Textbook:

**George J. Borjas, Labor Economics, 8/e
Harvard University-Cambridge**

**Grading/
Exams:**

**Quizzes: 25 %
Midterm I: 25 %
Midterm II: 25 %
Final Exam: 25%**

This is how letter grades will be assigned:

90-100 A
85-89 B+
75-84 B
70-74 C+
60-69 C
50-59 D
0-49 F

There is no extra credit

**Learning
Goals:**

- Understand basic theoretical models in labor economics and their assumptions
- Strengthen quantitative skills by calculating measures and solving mathematical models
- Strengthen analytical skills by employing mathematical and graphical models to make predictions
- Begin to interpret statistical tables and regression results and compare real world outcomes to model predictions
- Being able to contrast different interpretations of statistical evidence and theoretical models and understand resulting different views on economic policy

Policies:

There are two midterm exams and one final exam. **Make-ups are for emergencies only.** If you are unable to attend one of the exams you **MUST** have a verifiable excuse (a doctor's note) and let me know **BEFORE** the exam takes place, otherwise you will get a 0% for the exam.

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

**Class
Participation
and
Assignments:**

- You are expected to ***attend class*** and ***read the textbook***.
 - Class participation will be considered when you are between grades.
 - Use your time in class to practice ***paying attention***, learning the material, ***participating*** in discussions and ***asking questions***.
 - Homework ***assignments*** are to practice solving problems on the material. You are not expected to get it all right or know everything right away. ***Learning is a process!***
 - ***Quizzes*** based on the lectures and assignments will be posted online. The lowest two quiz grades will be dropped.
-

Course Outline (Subject to change, up-to-date schedule with Quiz deadlines is on Canvas)

W Sep. 1 Introduction (ch. 1)

W Sep. 8 Labor Supply (ch. 2)
- W Sep. 22

M Sep. 27 Labor Demand (ch. 3)
- M Oct. 4

W Oct. 6 MIDTERM EXAM I

M Oct. 11 Labor Market Equilibrium (ch. 4)
- W Oct. 20

M Oct. 25 Education (ch. 6)
- M Nov. 1

W Nov. 3 The Wage Structure (ch. 7)
- W Nov. 10

M Nov. 15 MIDTERM EXAM II

W Nov. 17 Labor Mobility (ch. 8)
- M Nov. 22

W Nov. 24 THANKSGIVING BREAK

M Nov. 29 Labor Market Discrimination (ch. 9)
- M Dec. 6

W Dec. 8 Labor Unions (ch. 10)
- M Dec. 13

M Dec. 20 FINAL EXAM
