



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Labour Economics

2627-2-F5603M013

Learning objectives

This course is designed to develop your understanding of labour economics. It will also provide you with theoretical tools and skills that will be helpful in analyzing economic problems. This course follows a structured and mathematical approach to labor economics theory and policy. Areas covered by the course include wage determination, unemployment, inequality, effects of globalization on labour markets, migration. Each topic and model will always be followed by a concrete real-world application and a discussion of recent trends and regulation.

Contents

Topics covered are:

- The Demand for Labor
- Frictions in the Labor Market
- The Supply of Labor
- Unemployment
- Inequality in Earnings
- The Labor Market Effects of International Trade

Detailed program

Topics covered are:

- Overview of the Labor Market
- The Demand for Labor

- Labor Demand Elasticities
- Frictions in the Labor Market
- Supply of Labor to the Economy: The Decision to Work
- Labor Supply: Household Production, the Family, and the Life Cycle
- Compensating Wage Differentials and Labor Markets
- Investments in Human Capital: Education and Training
- Worker Mobility: Migration, Immigration, and Turnover
- Pay and Productivity: Wage Determination Within the Firm
- Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in the Labor Market
- Unions and the Labor Market
- Unemployment
- Inequality in Earnings
- The Labor Market Effects of International Trade

Prerequisites

The prerequisites for the class are intermediate knowledge of microeconomics, mathematics, statistics and econometrics. We will rely on formal economic modeling. We will therefore use microeconomic tools that you have learned in previous courses. It is very important that you be familiar with these tools and feel comfortable using and manipulating them. If you are taking this class, I will assume this to be the case. I strongly encourage you to review the material from your previous microeconomics and econometrics courses.

Teaching methods

Lectures and tutorials

Assessment methods

The core component of the learning assessment is a final written exam, which will account for 70% of the final grade. The exam consists of a set of open questions on the main topics that have been discussed during the course. Sample questions and more details will be provided during the class-tutorials as we approach the end of the module.

There will also be a written midterm exam which will cover the materials of the first half of the course. The midterm will account for 30% of the final grade.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

For the first part of the class, we will follow the textbook *Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy* by Ronald G. Ehrenberg and Robert S. Smith, Routledge, 2025. For the second part, we will use additional lecture notes I will provide.

Semester

Spring semester

Teaching language

English

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES
