

School of Economics and Finance

ECON 333 LABOUR ECONOMICS

Trimester 2 2012

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator & Lecturer: Julia Bredtmann
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Office hours: Monday 10.00 – 12.00am or by appointment

Administration: Alice Fong
Office: RH 318, Ph. 463 5353
Email: Alice.Fong@vuw.ac.nz

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 16 July – Friday 19 October
Study Period: Monday 22 October – Thursday 25 October (Monday 22 October is a public holiday, Labour Day)
Examination Period: Friday 26 October – Saturday 17 November (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 27 July 2012.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday, 28 September. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an *'Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late'* including supporting documentation.

The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks.

Class Times and Room Numbers

Lectures: Monday & Wednesday 8.30-9.20am in RWW 129

Tutorials: Wednesday 2.40-3.30pm in RWW 129, and 3.40pm-4.30pm in RWW 312

Course Content

The course is an introduction to Labour Economics, with an eye to the link between research and public policy. The overall aim of the course is to gain an in depth understanding on how labour markets work. We will be investigating many aspects of labour markets, including the determinants of the supply of and demand for labour, wage determination, labour market

discrimination, education and training, and immigration. Throughout the lecture, we will emphasize applied microeconomic theory and empirical analysis.

An indicative schedule of course topics appears at the end of the course outline.

Course Learning Objectives

1. Explain the determinants of labour demand in the short run and in the long run.
2. Use individual and household labour supply models to explain the supply side of the labour market.
3. Understand and apply the productivity and signalling models of human capital theory.
4. Explain the presence of group differences in labour market outcomes and understand different ways of empirically measuring discrimination.
5. Understand the determinants of geographic mobility and the effects of immigration on local labour markets.
6. Synthesize information on different actors and outcomes across the various labour market topics.
7. Critically evaluate academic research and studies dealing with labour economics.

Course Delivery

This course will be delivered by two lectures per week, and a tutorial in 8 of the 12 weeks.

Expected Workload

150 hours, spread evenly over the 12 week trimester, study week and exam period.

Readings

There is no *required* textbook for this course. However, the textbook students are recommended to read is:

Ehrenberg, Ronald G., and Robert S. Smith, *Modern Labor Economics – Theory and Public Policy*. 11th edition (2012), Boston: Pearson/Addison Wesley. The 10th or 9th edition will also be appropriate.

In addition there will be required journal articles for some of the topics, which students will be expected to read and study.

Assessment Requirements

<i>Assessment Task</i>	<i>Due</i>	<i>Weighting</i>
Homework Assignment 1	Thursday, 16 August 2012	10%
Essay (1,200 words max.)	Monday, 10 September 2012	30%
Homework Assignment 2	Thursday, 4 October 2012	10%
Final Exam (2 hours)	During the exam period	50%

Quality Assurance Note

Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and audit purposes. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of FCom programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

Examinations

Students who enrol in courses with examinations are obliged to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period. The final examination for this course will be scheduled at some time during the period from Friday 26 October – Saturday 17 November (inclusive).

Penalties

Late submission of assignments will not be accepted without prior approval.

Mandatory Course Requirements

Mandatory course requirements will be satisfied if all assessment requirements are completed.

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details made available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students through the VUW Blackboard website.

For the following important information follow the links provided:

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

General University Policies and Statutes

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study

Find out about academic progress and restricted enrolment at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx>

The University's statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the Calendar webpage at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx> (See Section C).

Further information about the University's academic processes can be found on the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/default.aspx

AVC (Academic) Website: information including: Conduct, Academic Grievances, Students with Impairments, Student Support

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

Faculty of Commerce Office

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fcom/studenthelp/>

Te Putahi Atawhai

Maori and Pacific Mentoring Programme

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/tpa/>

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Course Topics

	Topics	Text Reference*
1	Introduction (i) Basic Concepts of the Labour Market (ii) Introduction to Regression Analysis	Chapters 1-2
2	Labour Demand (i) Short-Run and Long-Run Demand for Labour (ii) Labour Demand Elasticities	Chapters 3-4
3	Labour Supply (i) The Basic Neoclassical Model of Labour Supply (ii) Household Production and Joint Labour Supply Decisions	Chapters 6-7
4	Human Capital Investments (i) The Human Capital Investment Decision (ii) The Demand for College Education (iii) Education, Earnings, and Post-schooling Investments in Human Capital	Chapter 9
5	Pay and Productivity (i) Worker Motivation (ii) Productivity and the Level of Pay (iii) Productivity and the Sequencing of Pay	Chapter 11
6	Discrimination (i) Measured and Unmeasured Sources of Earnings Differences (ii) Theories of Market Discrimination	Chapter 12
7	Immigration (i) The Decision to Migrate (ii) The Effects of Immigration on Local Labour Markets	Chapter 10

*Ehrenberg, Ronald G., and Robert S. Smith. 2012. Modern Labor Economics – Theory and Public Policy, 11th edition. Boston: Pearson/Addison Wesley.

References for additional readings will be provided when reaching the relevant topic.