

**Economics 443  
Labor Economics  
Spring 2022  
Syllabus (3/27/2022)**

**Dr. Elaina Rose**

Associate Professor

[erose@u.washington.edu](mailto:erose@u.washington.edu)

**Class Meeting Time**

T Th 3:30 – 5:20 PM

**Office Hours**

Email me to arrange a Zoom appointment.

**Course Description**

In this class we will use economic theory and current and historical labor market data to understand labor market outcomes such as labor supply, labor demand, earnings, occupational choice, human capital investment and unemployment. Implications of policies measures such as workplace regulation, unemployment compensation and the minimum wage will be discussed.

The material will change from quarter-to-quarter as we cover current events and track the status of the labor market.

**Format**

The class will be a hybrid format of in-person and remote sessions. The classes on **3/29, 3/31, 4/5, and 4/21 (Midterm)**, and the **Final Exam on 6/9** will be **in-person**. All other classes will be remote. Remote classes will be held at the usual class time.

I strongly encourage everyone to mask and distance in class to the extent possible.

It is expected that students will attend and participate in remote classes at the same level they would in the in-person classes

**Prerequisites**

ECON 300 (Intermediate Microeconomics) or the equivalent.

**Required Text**

*Labor Economics*, Eighth Edition, by George Borjas. **You must use the 8<sup>th</sup> edition.** The ebook is available at <https://www.mheducation.com/>.

## Other Required Readings

Articles and policy papers posted on Canvas.

## Software

We will use the software package Stata for computer exercises. You can buy the student version (Stata BE) at <https://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/profplus/student-pricing/>. You may also access Stata for free remotely from CSDE.

## Class materials

Class materials will be posted on Canvas.

## Grading

Your class score will be calculated as follows:

Homework (7 @ 2 points each)	14 %
Midterm	30 %
Final Exam	31 %
Project	25 %

A score of 90% is generally the cutoff for an A-, 80% for a B-, etc. Grades are assigned according to the standard University of Washington grading system. See [http://www.washington.edu/students/genclat/front/Grading\\_Sys.html](http://www.washington.edu/students/genclat/front/Grading_Sys.html).

## Midterm and Final Exam

The midterm and final exam will be held in the classroom.

An absence from a midterm or exam is excused under certain circumstances, such as sickness, jury duty, death in the family, military service and religious observance. The UW policy for religious accommodations is below. If you know in advance that you will not be able to take the exam, let me know as soon as possible.

## Homework

You may consult class notes, handouts, and any material posted on the class Canvas page to complete the assignment. **You may not work with other students or consult any other material posted on the web or solutions to problems from a previous quarter to complete the graded homework assignments.** I will be happy to work with you if you feel you are stuck.

Upload your homework on Canvas by 10 PM on the date due.

Solutions to the homework problems will be posted after everyone has submitted the assignments. I will review problems as requested.

## **Project**

The group project involves researching a labor economics topic. A list of projects is in a separate document. I will assign groups based on students' preferences and backgrounds.

There may be other smaller assignments at the group level throughout the quarter that you will participate in through breakout rooms in class or on Zoom.

## **Academic Conduct**

*Academic integrity is the cornerstone of the Department's rules for student conduct and evaluation of student learning. Students accused of academic misconduct will be referred directly to the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct for disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Conduct Code and, if found guilty, will be subject to sanctions.* Sanctions range from a disciplinary warning, to academic probation, to immediate dismissal from the Department and the University, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct. Dismissal can be, and has been, applied even for first offenses. Moreover, a grade of zero can be assigned by the instructor for the course.

## **Religious Accommodation**

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at <https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy>. Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form at <https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>).

## **Communicating**

I will send out announcements by email. If you need to reach me, please email me with "Econ443" in the subject line and include your student number as well as your name in English characters. Please don't send messages to me through Canvas.

I try to get back to students' emails promptly. Please follow up if you do not get a response within 24 hours.

## The Schedule

The schedule of topics is tentative. There will also be detours to address current events. I will update regularly with more specifics about reading assignments

<u>Session</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings and Assignments</u>
1	3/29	Introduction to Labor Economics Measuring the Labor Force	*Borjas 1 (except for the appendix) *Borjas 2.0-2.2 *Stiglitz, "One Percent"
2	3/31	<u>Labor Supply I</u> Review of Theory of the Consumer Baseline Labor Supply Model	*Borjas 2.3-2.5 * <i>Baseline Labor Supply Model, p 1-10</i> * <i>Accessing BLS data</i> Homework 1 (do not submit)
3	4/5	<u>Labor Supply II</u> Baseline Labor Supply (Participation) Household Production Participation Profiles	*Borjas 2.6, 2.7 (participation) *Borjas 2.9 (HH Production) * <i>Baseline Labor Supply Model, p 11-13</i>
4	4/7	<u>Labor Supply III</u> Labor Supply Applications I	*Borjas 2.9 (HH production) *Borjas 2.11, 2.12, 2.14 (applications) * <i>Labor Supply Applications</i>  <b>Homework 2</b>
5	4/12	<u>Labor Supply IV and Research</u> Stata Tutorial Labor Supply Applications II Regression Models in Stata (example with returns to schooling)	*Borjas 2.8 * <i>Labor Supply Applications</i> * <i>Questionnaire (take survey before class but don't submit)</i>
6	4/14	<u>Labor Supply V and Labor Demand I</u> Estimating Labor Supply Elasticities The Market Labor Supply Curve Wrap-up Labor Supply Intro to Labor Demand	*Borjas 2.8 (again) **"Most Likely to Succeed..."  <b>Homework 3</b>
7	4/19	<u>Labor Demand II</u>	*Borjas 3.0-3.2 * <i>Labor Demand</i>
8	4/26	<u>Labor Demand III and Equilibrium I</u>	*Borjas 3.3-3.7 * <i>Labor Demand</i>
9	4/21	<b><u>MIDTERM</u></b>	
10	4/28	<u>Equilibrium</u> Minimum Wage, Monopsony	*Borjas 3.8, 3.10, 4.0, 4.1 *Lawrey, "Supersize" *Borjas 4.9, Appendix 6

			*Borjas, (4.3, 4.4?) <b>Homework 4</b>
11	5/3	<u>Human Capital I (Schooling)</u>	*Borjas, Chapter 6
12	5/5	<u>Human Capital II (Training)</u> Estimating Earnings Equations General and Specific Human Capital	*Borjas, 7.0-7.4 <b>Homework 5</b>
13	5/10	<u>Compensating Variations</u> <u>Race/Gender I</u>	*Borjas Chapter 5
14	5/12	<u>Race/Gender II</u>	*Borjas, Chapter 9
15	5/17	<u>Race/Gender III</u>	<b>Homework 6</b>
16	5/19	<u>Unemployment</u>	*Borjas, Chapter 12
17	5/24	<u>Income Distribution</u>	*Borjas, 7.5-7.9
18	5/26	Presentations	
19	5/31	Presentations	<b>Homework 7</b>
20	6/2	Presentations	
	6/9	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>4:30 – 6:20 PM</b>

\*Required

**Assignment Due or Exam**

*My document posted on Canvas.*