

**Economics 443
Spring 2025
Labor Economics
Syllabus**

Dr. Elaina Rose

Associate Professor

erose@u.washington.edu

Class Meeting Time

MW 3:30 – 5:20 PM

Remote

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.

Learning Objectives

- Use data to explain labor market outcomes
- Formulate and estimate econometric models of labor market and human capital outcomes
- Critically evaluate empirical work in labor economics
- Conduct empirical research on a topic in labor economics

Lectures

Classes will meet on Zoom between 3:30 and 5:20 on Mondays and Wednesdays. Classes will generally not be recorded. You are expected to keep cameras on and participate as you would in an in-person class.

Prerequisites

ECON 300 (Intermediate Microeconomics) or the equivalent.

Required Text

Labor Economics, Ninth Edition, by George Borjas,. **You must use the 9th 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/>. Some students may be able to access Stata for free remotely from CSDE. There will be tutorials on using Stata.

Class materials

Class materials will be posted on Canvas.

Grading

Your class score will be calculated as follows:

Homework (5 @ 4 points each)	20 %
Quizzes (4 @ 7 points each)	28 %
Final Exam (Cumulative)	22 %
Project	30 %

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/gencat/front/Grading_Sys.html.

Quizzes and Final Exam

Quizzes will be held on Wednesdays during the lecture period. The final exam will be held in the official University of Washington final exam time slot. **You must take the quizzes and exams during scheduled time according to the syllabus with your video on.**

An absence from a quiz or exam is excused only under extraordinary circumstances. Examples of excused absences include sickness, jury duty, death in the family, military service and religious observance. The UW policy for religious accommodation is below. A grade of zero will be assigned when an exam is missed for an unexcused reason. Exams will not be rescheduled to accommodate personal travel.

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 to complete the graded homework assignments. You may not compare solutions.** This is cheating. 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. Please include your name on the homework (in English characters) and the homework number in the file name. **It is your responsibility to verify that the homework has been uploaded correctly.**

I will grade some problems in detail and others will be graded based on honest effort. 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, and I will assign topics based on each group's preferences.

There may be other smaller assignments at the group level throughout the quarter that you will attend through Zoom breakout rooms.

I will meet with each group outside class hours at least twice each quarter.

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

The Schedule

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

<u>Session</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings and Assignments</u>
1	3/31	Introduction to Labor Economics Measuring the Labor Force	*Borjas, 1 (except for Appendix 1.1) *Borjas, 2.0-2.2
2	4/2	<u>Labor Supply I</u>	Request Group Members *Borjas, 2.3-2.6 * <i>Labor Supply</i>
3	4/7	<u>Labor Supply II</u> <u>New Labor Market Data</u>	Project Preferences Borjas, 2.11-2.12 * <i>Using BLS Data</i> * <i>Labor Supply Applications</i>
4	4/9	<u>Labor Supply III</u>	Homework 1 *Borjas, 2.7
5	4/14	<u>Stata Tutorial</u> <u>Regression Models</u> <u>Google Scholar</u>	* Questionnaire (<i>take survey before class but don't submit</i>)
6	4/16	<u>Estimating Labor Supply Elasticities</u> <u>Research</u>	Quiz 1 *Borjas, 2.8 * <i>"Most Likely to Succeed..."</i>
7	4/21	<u>Labor Demand I</u>	Homework 2 *Borjas, 3.1-3.2, 3.7
8	4/23	<u>Labor Demand II</u>	Project Plan and Assignments
9	4/28	<u>Equilibrium in Labor Markets</u> Minimum Wage	Quiz 2 *Borjas, 3.10
10	4/30	<u>Equilibrium</u> Monopsony Immigration	Homework 3 *Borjas, 4.9 *Borjas, 4.5, Chapter 8
11	5/5	<u>Human Capital I (Schooling)</u>	*Borjas, Chapter 6 Quiz 3
12	5/7	<u>Human Capital II (Schooling)</u>	*Borjas, Chapter 6 Homework 4

13	5/12	<u>Human Capital III (Training)</u> Estimating Earnings Equations General and Specific Human Capital	*Borjas, 7.0-7.4 Quiz 4
14	5/14	<u>Compensating Variations</u> <u>Race/Gender I</u>	*Borjas, Chapter 5 Status Report
15	5/19	<u>Race/Gender II</u>	Borjas, Chapter 9
	5/21	<u>Race/Gender III</u>	Homework 5
16	5/26	NO CLASS: MEMORIAL DAY	
17	5/28	Presentations	
18	6/2	Presentations	
19	6/4	Presentations	
	6/5		Individual Project Report
	6/8	FINAL EXAM	2:30-4:20

*Required
Due Date, Quiz, Exam
Posted on Canvas