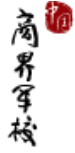# Human Resources and Labor Economics
Module 4, 2018–19

Course Information

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Classes:
Lectures: Monday and Thursday, 3:30–5:20pm
Venue: TBD

Course Website:
CMS

1. Course Description

1.1 Context

Course overview:
This is an elective course designed for graduate students in economics. It will provide students with an introduction to the theory and empirical practices of labor economics. The topics covered include the fundamental theories of labor demand and supply, the role of education and human capital, labor mobility and immigration, labor-market discrimination, the earnings distribution and measures of inequality, job search and matching, and labor-market policies.

Prerequisites:

Students are expected to have previously completed advanced undergraduate or masters-level courses in microeconomics, macroeconomics, and/or applied econometrics.

1.2   Textbooks and Reading Materials
There is no required textbook for this course, however, the two primary references are:
- Borjas, G. J. "Labor Economics". McGraw Hill Higher Education.
- Cahuc, P., Carcillo, S., & Zylberberg, A. "Labor Economics", 2nd Edition. The MIT Press.

The former provides a comprehensive introduction to the main topics in labor economics, while the latter provides a relatively rigorous and technical treatment of these topics.

There will be a computational component in the final part of this course. A useful reference for programming in Julia and Python, with economic applications (including labor search) is:
- QuantEcon (https://quantecon.org/).

2. Learning Outcomes

2.1 Intended Learning Outcomes

Learning Goals	Objectives	Assessment
1. Our graduates will be effective communicators.	1.1. Our students will produce quality business and research-oriented documents.	Project
	1.2. Students are able to professionally present their ideas and also logically explain and defend their argument.	Presentation
2. Our graduates will be skilled in team work and leadership.	2.1. Students will be able to lead and participate in group for projects, discussion, and presentation.	Project, presentation
5. Our graduates will be skilled in problem-solving and critical thinking.	5.1. Our students will have a good understanding of fundamental theories in their fields.	Problem sets, tests, exams
	5.3. Our students will demonstrate competency in critical thinking.	Problem sets, exams

2.2 Course specific objectives

This course aims to provide students with an introduction to the theory and practice of labor economics. Students will learn how to use economic models to study labor-market issues, and undertake quantitative analysis.

The first part of the course will be an introduction to the standard models used in labor economics. Topics include labor supply, labor demand, labor market equilibrium, and compensating wage differentials (e.g., Borjas, chapters 2–5). Next, we will cover human capital, the wage structure, labor mobility, and labor-market discrimination (e.g., Borjas, chapters 6–9).

The latter part of the course will focus on models of unemployment, including both labor-search and multi-sector models. Throughout these topics we will also quantitatively solve these models using Julia. Prior knowledge or experience programming in Julia is not assumed or required.

2.3 Assessment/Grading Details

The grade for each student will be determined using the following types of assessment (with associated weights):
- Problem sets (10%)
- In-class tests (20%)
- Project and presentation (20%)
- Exams (50%)

Problem sets:
There will be 3 problem sets throughout the course, each equally weighted. These must be submitted individually.

In-class tests:
There will be 5 multiple-choice tests, each equally weighted. Each test will be approximately 30–45 minutes long.

Project and presentation:
There will be a group research project and presentation, which accounts for 20% of the final grade (10% project, 5% presentation, 5% peer evaluation). Groups and topics are randomly assigned. The details for the project will be announced in class.

Exams:
There will be two exams, each equally weighted. Both exams will be in class, and each exam is 1 hour and 50 minutes long.

2.4 Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

It is important for a student's effort and credit to be recognized through class assessment. Credits earned for a student work due to efforts done by others are clearly unfair. Deliberate dishonesty is considered academic misconducts, which include plagiarism; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; or altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying of data, research procedures, or data analysis.

All assessments are subject to academic misconduct check. Misconduct check may include reproducing the assessment, providing a copy to another member of faculty, and/or communicate a copy of this assignment to the PHBS Discipline Committee. A suspected plagiarized document/assignment submitted to a plagiarism checking service may be kept in its database for future reference purpose.

Where violation is suspected, penalties will be implemented. The penalties for academic misconduct may include: deduction of honour points, a mark of zero on the assessment, a fail grade for the whole course, and reference of the matter to the Peking University Registrar.

For more information of plagiarism, please refer to *PHBS Student Handbook*.

3. Topics, Teaching and Assessment Schedule

The planned timeline for topics and assessment is:

Week	Topics	Assessment
1	-	-
	Introduction	-
2	Labor supply	-
	Labor demand	-
3	Labor-market equilibrium	Test 1
	Compensating wage differentials	-
4	Review of exam 1 topics	Test 2; PS 1 due
	-	Exam 1
5	Human capital	-
	Labor mobility	-
6	Labor-market discrimination	Test 3
	The wage structure	-
7	Multi-sector unemployment	Test 4; PS 2 due
	Julia programming	-
8	Labor search	-
	Labor search	-
9	Review of exam 2 topics	Test 5; PS 3 due
	-	Exam 2
10	Student presentations	Project due
	-	-

Deviations from the above schedule will be announced in class.

4. Miscellaneous

NA.