



# PHBS

北京大学汇丰商学院



## Human Resources and Labor Economics Module 4, 2019–20

### Course Information

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**Classes:**

Lectures: Tuesday and Friday, 8:30–10:20am

Venue: Online teaching

**Course Website:**

NA

### 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

**Textbook:**

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", 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## **2. Learning Outcomes**

### **2.1 Intended Learning Outcomes**

<b>Learning Goals</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
1. Our graduates will be effective communicators.	1.2. Students are able to professionally present their ideas and also logically explain and defend their argument.	Problem sets
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, exam
	5.3. Our students will demonstrate competency in critical thinking.	Problem sets, exam

### **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, particularly with a focus on policy analysis. Additionally, some common microeconomic techniques will be introduced throughout the course.

### **2.3 Assessment/Grading Details**

The grade for each student will be determined using the following types of assessment (with associated weights):

- i) Problem sets (50%)
- ii) Final exam (50%)

#### ***i) Problem sets***

There will be 3 problem sets throughout the course, each equally weighted. These may be completed in groups.

#### ***ii) Final exam***

There will be a 2-hour exam held on June 26, from 9am to 11am. The exact topics that will be examined will be announced in class.

### **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 first part of the course will briefly review the standard microeconomic framework used in labor economics. Topics include labor supply, labor demand, equilibrium, and compensating wage differentials.

Next, we focus on several key issues and policies relating to labor markets. These include human capital and education, the distribution of earnings and inequality, labor mobility and immigration, and labor-market discrimination.

Finally, we conclude with models of the labor market that focus on studying unemployment, including both labor-search and multi-sector models.

The planned timeline for topics and assessment is:

Week	Date	Topics	Assessment
1	April 24	Introduction, labor supply	-
2	April 28, April 29*	Labor supply, labor demand	-
3	May 5, May 8	Equilibrium, compensating wage differentials	-
4	May 12, May 15	Human capital, education, and signalling	PS1 due
5	May 19, May 22	The distribution of earnings and inequality	-
6	May 26, May 29	Labor mobility and immigration	PS2 due
7	June 2, June 5	Labor-market discrimination	-
8	June 9, June 12	Multi-sector unemployment	PS3 due
9	June 16, June 19	Labor search	-
10	June 23	Labor search, course review	Final exam

*\*Note the date change for Labor day*

Deviations from the above schedule, and the problem-set due dates, will be announced in class.

### 4. Miscellaneous

NA.