

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
Department of Economics
ECON 4531, Labor Economics
FALL 2023

Instructor:

Name: Diego Ascarza-Mendoza

Email: ascar005@umn.edu

Zoom Office Hours: Friday 9:30 – 11:30 am, and by appointment

Office Hours' Zoom ID: 922 5794 5978

Course Credits: 3 credits

Lecture Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 – 2:15 pm, Blegen Hall 235

Class Website: <https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/386803>

COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES:

Labor economics, broadly defined, is the study of why people work, how much they decide to work, and how labor markets function. In this course, we will study the theory of unemployment, migration, and household allocation. We will cover topics such as time allocation, labor force, labor market institutions, wage theory, search, and some aspects of policy.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students can identify, define, and solve problems – You will be able to solve problems pertaining to the labor market. You will have to answer questions in homework assignments and in the midterm and final exams.

Students can apply abstract concepts to and analyze real life examples – You will be able to apply abstract concepts in order to explain several real life phenomena and analyze policy applications. You will have to answer questions in homework assignments and in the midterm and final exams – both qualitative and quantitative.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

Econ 3101, 3102, which you should have successfully completed prior to taking this course.

TEXTBOOK:

Required: Labor Economics, Borjas, 8th edition

ADDITIONAL READINGS:

ONLINE OFFICE HOURS:

Office hours will be held at the times specified above, and by appointment, in Zoom. I will hold additional office hours before exams. The dates and times of these will be announced later.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTOR:

You can contact me via email or Canvas messages. In particular, this is the way to contact me if you have individual questions or if you would like to schedule an appointment. Appointments last 20 minutes each. You can also ask questions in the Canvas weekly discussion threads --- related to the material covered in the given week or the Canvas FAQ discussion thread --- for general questions.

I will use Canvas Announcements for general classroom announcements.

I will respond to emails within 48 hours. Grades for homework assignments will be posted in Canvas within one week, and for exams, within two weeks.

APPROPRIATE USE OF COURSE MATERIALS

Sharing course materials with anyone outside of the class is a violation of intellectual property per Item 6 of the [U of M policy on student responsibilities](#). Please do not share any course material with anyone else.

Technical Support for Canvas:

For tips and information about Canvas visit the Canvas Guide Using Help - Student: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>.

INSTRUCTIONAL TIME AND STUDENT EFFORT:

For undergraduate courses, one credit is defined as equivalent to three hours of additional work per week for the course, in order for students to achieve an average grade. This implies that you should put in at least 9 additional hours per week on this course, along with attending class for 150 minutes per week.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Activities and assignments in this class include:

- Homework assignments
- Midterm exam
- Final exam

Extra credit is not offered in this course.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

There will be four homework assignments. Homework assignments are due on the Thursday of the week outlined in the tentative course schedule, **online**. Submit a single pdf file.

You are strongly encouraged to work on homework questions as they are very likely to turn up on the midterm and final exams. This gives you a chance to internalize some of the material before the exams. I will not post solutions online, so please attend office hours to ask questions.

ASSESSMENTS/EXAMS:

There are two exams- a midterm exam and a final exam. Dates and times are given below.

Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will cover everything done in the lecture up to that point. In case you miss the midterm exam due to a documented emergency, the final exam will count for the midterm as well. **The midterm is on October 24th during class hours.**

Final Exam: The final exam will include all the material covered in lectures and homework assignments. **The final is from 10:30am to 12:30pm on December 20th (Wednesday).**

FEEDBACK ON HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS:

Except for the final exam, I will go over correct answers in class, hence there may be minimal comments along with the grades. For the final exam, individual feedback will be made on the graded assignments and general feedback via Canvas announcement.

GRADE DISPUTES:

Any dispute regarding a grade must be submitted in writing (such as via the [Canvas Inbox](#)) within 72 hours of when the grade is posted. You must provide clear rationale for why you believe that your grade is incorrect. Statements like “I think I’m right” or “I think I met all of the requirements of this assignment” are not sufficient rationale. Keep in mind that, based on our second look at an assignment, your grade could go down as well as up.

COURSE GRADING POLICY - The final grade is determined as follows:

Homework: 30%

Midterm: 30%

Final: 40%

DEPARTMENT GRADING SCALE:

92%-100% A

90%-91% A-

88%-89% B+

82%-87% B

80%-81% B-

78%-79% C+

72%-77% C

70%-71% C-

68%-69% D+

60%-67% D

0 -59% F

POLICIES:

E-MAIL: Initiate or activate your University e-mail account. This is issued to every student who is registered for a course. This way, you will receive any mass mailings that are sent out to the class. You can have mail from this e-mail account forwarded to any address you want.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE FOR FALL 2023:

Week	Topic	Chapters	Activities Due
Week 1	Introduction	1	
Week 2	Labor Supply	2	
Week 3	Labor Demand	3	HW1 due
Week 4			
Week 5	Labor Market Equilibrium	4	HW2 due
Week 6			
Week 7	Review		Midterm exam
Week 8	Compensating Wage Differentials	5	
Week 9	Human Capital	6	
Week 10			HW 3 due
Week 11	Wage Structure	7	
Week 12	Labor Mobility	8	
Week 13	Unemployment	12	HW 4 due
Week 14			
Week 15	Review		Final exam

Academic Services and Resources at UMN

Below are several student services available to students:

- [Academic Advising Center](#)
- [Disability Student Services](#)
- [Career Services](#)
- [Counseling Center](#)
- [Financial Aid Office](#)
- [Student Writing Support](#)
- <https://libguides.umn.edu/economics> for the U libraries' section for Economics

The University of Minnesota [Academic Support and Tutoring website](#) and [Student Academic Support Services](#) offer a range of excellent support services. Please contact the [Center for Writing](#), or the [Libraries](#) for assistance with research and writing skills.

FERPA and STUDENT PRIVACY

In this class, our use of technology will make student names and emails visible within the course website, but only to other students in the same class. The University uses a secure, password-protected course website; however, if you have concerns, you can adjust settings in your online

course profile to hide your email. If you are required to use any tool external to Canvas for learning activities or assignment completion, a link or description of privacy policies will be included in the directions provided in the course site.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS -- PROCEDURES AND POLICIES 2023-24

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

Written answers to homework assignments must be typed; Graphs and numerical work need not be typed, but should be legible.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

Students are expected to have successfully completed all prerequisites prior to taking an Economics course.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for all students with documented disabilities (by the DRC). Contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to work out details. This information will be kept confidential.

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH AND STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICES:

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. University of Minnesota services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns. Information about confidential mental health services is available at: <https://boynton.umn.edu/clinics/mental-health>. Student Counseling Services website: <https://counseling.umn.edu/>

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, and relationship violence) includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Such behavior is prohibited in the University setting.

Per the [U of M policy on sexual harassment](#), *I am required to share information that I learn about possible sexual misconduct* with the campus Title IX office. Within the requirements of my job, I will be as responsive as possible to your requests for confidentiality and support. You can also, or alternately, choose to talk with a confidential resource that will not share information that they learn about sexual misconduct. Confidential resources include [The Aurora Center](#), [Boynton Mental Health](#), and [Student Counseling Services](#).

DROPPING A CLASS:

Termination of attendance alone is not sufficient to drop a class. You must notify the Registrar's office. Please contact your academic (college) adviser for details on this process and pay attention to University deadlines for add/drop.

INCOMPLETE GRADE:

Low class standing is not a valid reason for an Incomplete grade. An I is given only in exceptional circumstances like family emergencies or hospitalization; arrangements must be worked out

between the student and instructor before the final exam. We require written proof of emergencies. Details about I grades and how to make it up are to be decided by the Instructor and student; you need to fill out the form.

MAKE-UP EXAMS:

Make up exams are possible for the final exam only if the student has another exam scheduled at the same time, or has three exams within a 16 hour period. This should be pre-arranged with the instructor at least three weeks before the final exam. Make up final exams may also be possible for documented medical emergencies.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

"The College of Liberal Arts defines scholastic dishonesty broadly as any act by a student that misrepresents the student's own academic work or that compromises the academic work of another. Examples include cheating on assignments or exams, plagiarizing (misrepresenting as one's own anything done by another), unauthorized collaboration on assignments or exams, or sabotaging another student's work".

The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as "Submission of false records of academic achievement; cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; taking, acquiring, or using text materials without faculty permission; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement."

Penalties for scholastic dishonesty of any kind in any course will entail an "F" for the particular assignment/exam or the course.

Website for information on Student Academic Misconduct --
<https://communitystandards.umn.edu/avoid-violations/avoiding-scholastic-dishonesty>

STUDENT CONDUCT AND CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:

Students are expected to contribute to a calm, productive, and learning environment. Check the Student Conduct Code: https://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/2019-09/policy_student_conduct_code.pdf to find out what is expected of you.

STUDY ABROAD IN ECONOMICS:

The Department encourages you to undertake Study Abroad. There are many courses in foreign countries that can satisfy some economics major, minor, or Liberal Education requirements. For more information, please contact our Undergraduate Advisers, Ms. Annie Bigley and Ms. Tiffany Kroeze Murphy, or the University's Learning Abroad Center at <http://www.umabroad.umn.edu/>.

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISERS:

Contact the Undergraduate Advisers if you wish to sign up for an Economics major or minor or to get information about institutions of higher study. Your APAS form will list your progress toward an Economics degree.

Adviser: Ms. Tiffany Kroeze Murphy and Ms. Annie Bigley (econadv@umn.edu); Sign up for appointments at econ.appointments.umn.edu

ECONOMICS UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Available on the Internet at: <https://cla.umn.edu/economics/undergraduate>. Registration policies are listed in the University Course Schedules and College Bulletins.

COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS ABOUT COURSES:

All course grades are subject to department review.

Please contact your instructor or TA if you have any complaints/concerns about the course. If your concerns are not resolved after talking with your instructor, you can contact: Dr. Ayca Ozdogan, Director of Undergraduate Studies. Her e-mail is: ozdog002@umn.edu

Department of Economics Policy on AI:

Artificial intelligence (AI) language models, such as ChatGPT, and online assignment help tools, such as Chegg®, are examples of online learning support platforms: they cannot be used for course assignments, or exams. The following actions are prohibited in economics course:

- Submitting all or any part of an assignment/paper/exam statement from an online learning support platform;
- Incorporating any part of an AI generated response in an assignment;
- Using AI to brainstorm, formulate arguments, or template ideas for assignments;
- Using AI to summarize or contextualize source materials;
- Submitting your own work for this class to an online learning support platform for iteration or improvement.

If you are in doubt as to whether you are using an online learning support platform appropriately in this course, please discuss your situation with the instructor.

Any assignment content composed by any resource other than you, regardless of whether that resource is human or digital, must be attributed to the source through proper citation. (Examples of citing content composed by digital tools are presented in: libguides.umn.edu/chatgpt or provide an alternative reference appropriate for your class].)

Unattributed use of online learning support platforms and unauthorized sharing of instructional property are forms of scholastic dishonesty and will be treated as such. Students may receive a score of zero if unauthorized AI tools are used in any assignment or exam that is graded.

Please consult the DUS, Dr. Ayca Ozdogan, if you have questions. She can be reached at ozdog002@umn.edu