



BUSINESS SCHOOL
Te Kura Pakihi

ECON 301 (18 points)

Labour Economics

Semester 1, 2024

Course Outline

While every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate, it is subject to change. Changes will be notified in class and via Blackboard. Students are encouraged to check Blackboard regularly. It is the student's responsibility to be informed.

Kindly note that there may be situations of disorder caused by factors external to us, but we (staff and students) are in it together and we have to make the best out of it.

Paper Description

The objective of ECON301 is to provide you with an understanding of key labor market issues with the use of economic methods.

Learning Outcomes

- understand key economic concepts used to explain labor market issues, such as labor demand and supply, determination of wages, human capital, and discrimination
- develop tools to understand labor market policies
- apply your understanding to personal decisions

Teaching Staff

Neha Agarwal (Course coordinator)

Office: Rm 621 Otago Business School

Email: neha.agarwal@otago.ac.nz

Office Hours: Email for an appointment or drop in when the door is open.

Dennis Wesselbaum

Office: Rm 622 Otago Business School

Email: dennis.wesselbaum@otago.ac.nz

Office Hours: TBD

Lectures

Mondays @ 11am; Tuesdays @ 2pm; Wednesdays @ 12pm

Lecture recordings are posted on Blackboard within 24 hours of the scheduled lecture. Weekly lecture slides are posted before lectures.

Email Policy

Emails from any address other than your University of Otago email may land in our junk folder.

If you email us with a question that is answered by this course outline or information provided on Blackboard (BB), we will probably respond with “Please refer to the course outline/BB”.

You may ask Neha or Dennis after class if in doubt.

The Economics Reception will be open between 11.00am – 12.00pm and 2.00 – 3.00pm daily.

Reading

The text for this course is *Labor Economics*, 2020, 8th edition, by George J. Borjas, McGraw-Hill Irwin. This text will cover most aspects of the course, however, when supplementary reading is needed, these are available on eReserve on Blackboard.

The references in the course will be based on the latest, i.e. 8th edition of the text, but students may also use the *Labor Economics*, 2016, 7th edition, by George J. Borjas, McGraw-Hill Irwin. However, it is the students' responsibility to confirm the corresponding page numbers in the earlier edition of the text. Two copies of the 7th edition will be on the Reserve Desk.

Assessment

	Weight	Plussage	Notes
Two Assignments	10%	No	Best of 2 will count
One Mid semester test	40%	Yes	Covering first 4 weeks of teaching
Final exam	50%	-	

Two assignments may consist of multichoice (MC) tests and short answer question (SA). You will have two weeks to complete each assignment. Best assignment out of 2 will count in your final grade.

You **can work with others** on your answers but have to submit your answers **individually** on BB (your grades are posted to the Grade Centre). Instructions are provided on BB.

- **No extensions are provided (no exceptions).** If you have a good reason for why you are unable to submit assignment for 2 weeks or more (remember, you are allowed to miss one without penalty), please contact the Paper coordinator with relevant supporting information to discuss alternatives.
- The onus lies with the students to 'submit' the assignment prior to the submission date.
- It is also the student's responsibility to submit short answers that are legible and in file formats without the potential for distortion – we recommend **PDF files or type in the space provided**.
- No marks are awarded for answers that are not legible/distorted (we will keep a screenshot on file) and no replacement submissions are permissible after the submission date.
- If you upload the wrong file before the submission date, you can **re-upload unlimited times** – the last file uploaded before the submission date is the file that will be marked.

Submitting answers shortly before the submission date runs the risk of internet failure or other problems; we assume any student choosing to do so has 'risk-loving' preferences and accepts the implications graciously. **Mid-Semester Test (On Campus).**

The mid-semester test is currently scheduled for **Wednesday April 10 2024**, during lecture time. The test is of **50 minutes** duration and will take place in the lecture room. More instructions to follow.

We do not have the resources to assess students' reasons for not being able to sit the test, hence this test is **plussage**. There are **no resits** and **no alternative times** this test can be sat (no exceptions). If you miss the test, plussage will automatically apply. *Plussage* means your final grade is the highest of these two calculations:

MC+SA assignments (10%) + mid-semester test (40%) + final exam (50%)

MC+SA assignments (10%) + final exam (90%)

Final Exam.

The final exam is of **two hours** duration. More information will be provided closer to the time.

Course Outline

Weeks 1-6: Neha

Week 1	Human Capital I
Week 2	Human Capital II
Week 3	Wage structure
Week 4	Labour mobility
Week 5	Labour market discrimination
Week 6	Labour Unions

Weeks 7-12: Dennis

Week 7	Labour supply I
Week 8	Labour supply II
Week 9	Labour Demand I
Week 10	Labour Demand II
Week 11	Labour market equilibrium I
Week 12	Labour market equilibrium II
Week 13	Revision week/ Q and A (Dennis and Neha)

Professional Conduct

Students are expected to prepare for and attend all classes to gain full benefit from the course.

COVID-19 Notice: All COVID-19 restrictions have been removed. Nevertheless, please follow all recommendations by the government and the university and keep yourself updated. More information: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/coronavirus/index.html>.

We expect professional behaviour of students. This involves, for example, being on time and to independently inform yourself about rules and regulations, the details about this paper, especially its assessments, as well as the location of materials and assignments on Blackboard – as these may vary over lecturers. There will not be reminders about dates or deadlines.

Furthermore, students are expected to comply with all university rules and regulations.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity means being honest in your studying and assessments. It is the basis for ethical decision-making and behaviour in an academic context. Academic integrity is informed by the values of honesty, trust, responsibility, fairness, respect and courage. Students are expected to be aware of, and act in accordance with, the University's Academic Integrity Policy.

Academic Misconduct, such as plagiarism or cheating, is a breach of Academic Integrity and is taken very seriously by the University. Types of misconduct include plagiarism, copying, unauthorised collaboration, submitting work written by someone else (including from a file sharing website, text generation software, or purchased work) taking unauthorised material into a test or exam, impersonation, and assisting someone else's misconduct. A more extensive list of the types of academic misconduct and associated processes and penalties is available in the University's Student Academic Misconduct Procedures.

It is your responsibility to be aware of and use acceptable academic practices when completing your assessments. To access the information in the Academic Integrity Policy and learn more, please visit the University's Academic Integrity website at www.otago.ac.nz/study/academicintegrity, or ask at the Student Learning Centre (HEDC) or the Library, or seek advice from your paper co-ordinator.

For further information:

Academic Integrity Policy

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116838.html>

Student Academic Misconduct Procedures

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116850.html>