

ECN 752: Labor Economics II
Syracuse University
Spring 2022

Instructor: Maria Zhu

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Office Hours: MW 8:30-9:30AM

- To make appointment: <https://profzhu-officehours.youcanbook.me>
- Office hours link: <https://syracuseuniversity.zoom.us/j/9052831503>

Class: MW 3:45-5:05PM, Eggers Hall 113

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to provide Ph.D. students with an in-depth introduction to a selection of topics in the field of labor economics, as well as to develop skills and tools needed to be a successful researcher. This course is part of the sequence for the labor economics field in the Ph.D. program in economics. We will cover the theory behind core topics in labor economics, along with the empirical strategies used or developed to estimate important parameters to inform policy. The course will also provide students with relevant econometric concepts and tools widely employed in labor and other applied fields in economics. Furthermore, students will engage in developing their own research, as well as expanding writing and presenting skills.

The class will consist of participatory lectures, which implies that **students are expected to read the material before every lecture.**

Course website: Course materials will be posted on Blackboard.

Course textbook: Labor Economics, by Pierre Cahuc, Stéphane Carcillo, and André Zylberberg. Second Ed, MIT Press, 2014.

Office Hours: Office hours this semester will be held online. You can sign up for office hour slots in 15-minute increments using the link at the top of the page, and you are welcome to sign up for multiple consecutive increments if need longer than 15 minutes. If the scheduled Office Hours times do not work with your schedule, please feel free to email me and we can set up an alternative meeting time.

Grades will be computed as follows:

- Class presentations (of published papers) (30%--15% for each paper)
- Term paper proposal (20%)
- Term paper presentation (20%)
- Term paper (30%)

Notes

- Class presentations: Each student will do two separate 30-minute presentations of papers from the reading list. We will discuss presentation assignments and dates during the first class. The presentation should be structured like an academic

presentation. Be sure to emphasize the main contributions of this paper and how it advances the literature on the topic. It should also give a succinct summary of the paper so that the audience obtains clear “take-away” points about the paper.

- Term paper proposal: The goal of the term paper is to start a solid empirical analysis on a topic of your interest by the end of the semester. The proposal is due mid-semester and should be a 2–4-page (double-spaced) writeup of the proposed idea for the research project. The proposal should include the research question, how it contributes to existing literature, and how you plan to go about answering this research question in terms of the data and empirical strategy that will be employed. There should also be discussion of the theoretical underpinnings of the analysis and hypothesized results and/or channels that may drive outcomes of interest.
- Term paper presentation: 30-minute presentation of the research in your term paper. The presentation should be structured like an academic presentation and cover the main sections of your paper. Make sure to emphasize the main contributions of this paper and how it advances the literature on the topic.
- Term paper: The term paper will consist, in most cases, in a literature review and a detailed plan including hypothesis, data that will be used, and empirical strategy to be employed. The paper can also include preliminary results. The page limit is 15 pages (double-spaced, including references and tables). Students are encouraged to talk to the instructor about the idea for the paper as early in the semester as possible.

Deadlines

- Each week: Read assigned papers “*” from the reading list that we will be covering for the week
- Class presentation: We will discuss paper assignments and presentation dates during the first class. Different students will present in different weeks.
- Term paper proposal: Friday, March 25
- Term paper presentation: Last two weeks of class, April 25-May 4
 - You should be ready to present any of those dates
- Term paper: Friday, May 13

Topic Schedule (tentative)

1. Week 1: Introduction and Human capital (overview and returns to schooling)
2. Week 2: Human capital (education production and evaluation)
3. Week 3: Labor market equilibrium and compensating differentials
4. Week 4: Self-selection: the Roy model
5. Week 5: Intergenerational mobility
6. Week 6: Catch-up on lectures
7. Week 7: Discrimination: theory and empirics
8. Week 8: Discrimination and learning models
9. Week 9: Gender gaps in labor markets
10. Week 10: Early life determinants of long-run outcomes
11. Week 11: Social interactions and network effects
12. Week 12: Catch-up on lectures
13. Weeks 13/14: Student term paper presentations

Reading Assignments

- You are required to read articles marked with “*” on the reading list before class. Additional articles in the reading list are supplemental material as they benefit your development as a researcher.

Class Policies

Academic Dishonesty: Complete academic honesty is expected of all students. Any incidence of academic dishonesty, as defined by the SU Academic Integrity Policy will result in both course sanctions and formal notification of the College of Arts & Sciences. For more information about the policy: <http://class.syr.edu/academic-integrity/policy/>.

Center for Disability Resources: Students with disabilities who desire special arrangements are asked to go through the Center for Disability Resources (CDR), located in Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, or call (315) 443-4498 for an appointment. CDR is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented Disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. CDR policy stipulates that all paper work associated with academic accommodations due to a disability be completed and returned to their office at least 10 days in advance of the exam date requested. All scheduled exams will be administered in the CDR testing center at 804 University Avenue. You must contact the CDR Service Coordinator at least 2 days prior to the scheduled exam to confirm the date and time of the event.

Faith Tradition Observance: Syracuse University’s religious observance policy (<https://policies.syr.edu/policies/university-governance-ethics-integrity-and-legal-compliance/religious-observances-policy/>) recognizes the diversity of faiths represented in the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holy days according to their traditions. Under the policy, students are given an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance, provided they notify their instructors no later than the academic drop deadline. For observances occurring before the drop deadline, notification is required at least two academic days in advance. Students may enter their observances in MySlice under Student Services/Enrollment/My Religious Observances/Add a Notification.

COVID-19 Protocol: We will follow Syracuse University’s four-tiered COVID alert Framework for masking (<https://www.syracuse.edu/staysafe/covid-alert-framework/>). This means that in BLUE and RED conditions, all students are required to wear masks in the classroom. If you do not follow protocol, you will be asked to leave the class. If you refuse to leave class in a timely manner, I will end lecture and report the situation to administration. I have masks available for those who need them. If you are unable to make it to class for COVID-19 related reasons, I will excuse your absence once you send me documentation (this can be from Syracuse University or an external healthcare provider).

Mental Health: Mental health and overall well-being are significant predictors of academic success. As such it is essential that during your college experience you develop the skills and resources effectively to navigate stress, anxiety, depression, and other mental health concerns.

There are a range of resources available at the Barnes Center (<https://ese.syr.edu/bewell/>) and I encourage you to seek out support for mental health concerns as needed. Counseling services are available 24/7, 365 days, at 315-443-8000.