

Labor Economics (IKT 210)

Labour economics studies how the labour market and workplace function. We examine the factors that impact both the supply and demand for labour before examining a variety of labour market concerns, such as wages, education and training, the impact of unemployment, the origins and effects of discrimination, immigration, unions, and other issues related to COVID-19. This course examines the institutional and commercial elements that influence hiring decisions. Through the use of text and graphics, students will gain the ability to analyse and evaluate labour issues as they are presented in scholarly and popular media. For this course, there are no prerequisites.

Students will be able to place the operation of labour markets in historical and contemporary contexts by the conclusion of the term. After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Interpret EU labour market data, including the monthly unemployment report from the EU statistics;
- Explain the decisions made by employers and workers that form the basis of the labour supply and demand framework, and predict the wage and employment outcomes associated with these decisions in a competitive labour market;
- Gain an understanding of current issues in labour market policy through theoretical and empirical approaches during COVID-19.

Methods of Instruction and Learning

Reading and video instruction are combined in this course, and learning is assessed through both conceptual and technical practice. A single learning module opens every Thursday and needs to be finished by the following Thursday to be closed. There will be a mix of reading, video, and PowerPoint material in each module. An exercise is included in every module to assess your comprehension of the content.

Grading

The following mandatory assignments will be used to determine grades, and letter grades will be given by the University grading system.

Presentation, Discussion, and Reading Answers: 40%

Midterm: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

Week 1: The Labor Market Impacts of COVID-19: A Comparative Analysis Across Industries and Regions

Week 2: Essential Workers and COVID-19: Examining Occupational Hazards, Job Insecurity, and Policy Responses

Week 3: Unemployment Dynamics During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Exploring Long-Term Effects and Recovery Strategies

Week 4: Remote Work and Labor Market Resilience: Assessing the Shift in Employment Patterns Post-COVID-19

Week 5: Labor Market Discrimination and COVID-19: Disparities in Hiring, Promotion, and Wage Setting

Week 6: Impact of COVID-19 on Gig Workers and the Informal Economy: Challenges and Opportunities for Policy Interventions

Week 7: Skills Mismatch and Retraining Initiatives in Response to COVID-19: Adapting Labor Supply to Changing Demand

Week 8: Labor Market Polarization and COVID-19: Trends in Income Inequality and Job Quality

Week 9: Gendered Impacts of the Pandemic on Labor Market Outcomes: Analysis of Participation Rates, Earnings, and Household Dynamics

Week 10: The Role of Labor Unions in Negotiating Worker Protections and Economic Security During COVID-19"

Week 11-14: Presentation