The major focus of this course is theoretical and empirical analysis of wage and employment determination in the labor market. In addition, the role of public policy in affecting wage and employment outcomes in the U.S. labor market is examined. Most of us allocate a substantial fraction of our time to the labor market. Our action on the labor market influences many aspects of our life: our wealth, the goods we consume, whom we associate with, where we vacation, etc. In this course, we explore the ideas economists use to understand how labor markets work. This will aid our understanding of topics such as education and training, discrimination and the impact of antidiscrimination programs, changes in wage inequality over time, immigration, unions, unemployment, and poverty.

Contact and Office Hours

Professor Andrea Weber, 631B Evans, Tel 643-5272, email webera@econ.berkeley.edu
Office hours: Wednesday 9:30 – 11:30
Appointment: if you cannot make the office hours, send an email and request an appointment

Graduate Student Instructor

Your GSI for Econ 152 is Eva O. Arceo-Gomez, email: earceo@econ.berkeley.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday, 10-12, in 608-5 Evans
You are strongly advised to attend one of her discussion sessions.

Course Website
http://emlab.berkeley.edu/users/webfac/weber/e152_f07/e152.shtml

Readings
The course will largely follow the required textbook: Labor Economics, by George J. Borjas. In addition, we will go over applied papers, which provide empirical evidence for the economic theory. The exams cover material from both the textbook and the additional readings. The textbooks are available at the Cal Bookstore and on reserve at Moffitt Library.

Required textbook:

Additional recommended textbook:
Pierre Cahuc and Andre Zylberberg, Labor Economics (MIT Press)

Reader:
Additional readings material is listed below. These readings are available at www.jstor.org
**Problem Sets and Exams**
There will be 6 Problem sets, two Midterms and a Final Exam.
The problem sets are handed out on Wednesday every second week and will be due on Wednesday the following week.

Exams will be closed book, closed notes exams. They cover the material presented in class and consist of short answer type questions.
No make up exams will be scheduled. Students who miss an exam must communicate with Professor Weber by email or phone on the day of the exam. Students need to have a certified certificate from a medical or legal authority to justify the reason for having missed the exam. Otherwise a missed exam counts 0 towards the final grade.

**Exam Dates**
1st Midterm Exam: October 1, in class
2nd Midterm Exam: November 14, in class
Final Exam: December 14, place to be announced

**Course Grades**
There are 3 grades for Problem Sets: check minus, check, check plus
Each of the exams is graded on a scale from 0-100.

The Final Grade is composed of
Problem Sets 15%
Midterm Exams 35%
Final Exam 50%

**Additional Rules**
Attendance:
Attendance will be taken in the first week of sections. Students who do not show up in the first section will be dropped from the class.

Special Accommodation
If you require special accommodation for exams due to learning or other disabilities, please come and speak to Professor Weber. You will also need to obtain an evaluation form from the Disabled Students’ Program.

Fire Alarm Rule
If the fire alarm is pulled during an exam, the class will move outside and finish the exam in the allotted time.

**Tentative Schedule and Reading Assignment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 27, 29, 31  Introduction, Labor Supply, Basic measures and facts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Borjas Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sep 5, 7 Labor Supply, Neoclassical model of labor leisure choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Read:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 17, 19, 21</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 3, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 24, 26, 28</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 8, 10, 12</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 15, 17, 19</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 22, 24, 26</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 29, 31, Nov 2</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 5, 7, 9</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 14, Nov 16</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 19, 21</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 26, 28, 30</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 3, 5, 7</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 10</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 14</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional Reading List


