ECON 6800-004: Directed Study in Labor Economics

UNC Charlotte, Department of Economics, Fall 2021

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Email:  pgaggl@uncc.edu

1 Course Objective
The course is a graduate topics course in labor economics with two objectives: The primary objective is to provide an overview of the literature across several key areas studied in labor economics, focusing on labor demand, labor supply, investment in human capital, as well as the effects of immigration, technology, outsourcing, and market concentration. Given the importance of empirical approaches in labor economics, the second objective is exposure to a variety of methods commonly used in labor economics, including Bartik instruments, difference in differences, regression discontinuity, and quantile regression.

2 Schedule
Weekly Meetings:  time/day TBD  Zoom (Friday 219A)
Assignments:  Weekly literature summaries  Dropbox
Final Exam:  Take home exam due on Dec. 17, 2020  Dropbox

3 Course Resources
Class Readings:  There is no required textbook for this class. A detailed weekly reading list is provided below. The following textbook is recommended as a companion:

   URL https://books.google.com/books?id=ztXL21Xd8v8C

4 Course Grade

Course Grade Formula

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly (written) Literature Summaries</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion in Weekly Meetings</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>22%</td>
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Weekly (written) Literature Summaries (50% of grade):  The primary goal of the readings in this course is to gain knowledge of labor economics. The literature summaries will ensure this learning occurs, and will also serve to further develop students’ ability to read and synthesize academic studies. The summaries will be graded based on how well the key points (e.g., question, method, finding, importance, limitations) are identified and how concisely they are discussed.
Discussion in Weekly Meetings (30% of grade): In weekly Zoom meetings, students will discuss and answer questions about the literature they reviewed for that week.

Final Exam (20% of grade): In a final take home exam, students will answer specific questions about one (or more) of the papers from the reading list.

5 Schedule for Summaries

Separate summaries should be written for each paper, unless indicated otherwise, with a brief overview/general comments that summarize the takeaways from the literature for that topic. The schedule lists the week each assignment is due.

Tentative Schedule of Due Dates (Dates indicate the Wednesday of each week)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Paper Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Aug. 25</td>
<td>U.S. Trends</td>
<td>Juhn and Potter (2006); Krueger (2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Sep. 1</td>
<td>Labor Supply</td>
<td>DaVanzo et al. (1976); Angrist and Evans (1998)</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Sep. 8</td>
<td>Policy and Labor Supply</td>
<td>Eissa and Hoynes (2004); Bitler et al. (2006)</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Sep. 15</td>
<td>Immigration 1</td>
<td>Card (1990); Mayda et al. (2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Sep. 22</td>
<td>Immigration 2</td>
<td>Borjas (2003); Ottaviano et al. (2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Sep. 29</td>
<td>Business Cycles 1</td>
<td>Hoynes et al. (2012); Hershbein and Kahn (2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>Business Cycles 2</td>
<td>Jaimovich and Siu (2020); Gaggl and Kaufmann (2019)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>Human Capital</td>
<td>Weiss (1995); Kuka et al. (2020)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>Human Capital and Devel.</td>
<td>Schoellman (2011); Hendricks and Schoellman (2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Oct. 27</td>
<td>Job Polarization</td>
<td>Autor et al. (2003); Autor and Dorn (2013)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Akerman et al. (2015); Gaggl and Wright (2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>Robots and Bartik IV</td>
<td>Acemoglu and Restrepo (2020); Goldsmith-Pinkham et al. (2020)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 24</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td>Outsourcing</td>
<td>Crinò (2010); Autor (2003)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>Market Concentration</td>
<td>Bhaskar et al. (2002); Azar et al. (2020); Arnold (2019)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finals Week</td>
<td>Dec. 15</td>
<td>Final Exam Due</td>
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6 Reading List

Note that readings are subject to change throughout the semester.

6.1 Trends in U.S. Labor Supply

   URL https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/jep.20.3.27

   URL https://ideas.repec.org/a/bin/bpeajo/v48y2017i2017-02p1-87.html
6.2 Labor Supply


   URL [https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aer.96.4.988](https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aer.96.4.988)

6.3 Immigration

   URL [https://doi.org/10.1177/001979399004300205](https://doi.org/10.1177/001979399004300205)


   URL [https://doi.org/10.1162/003355303322552810](https://doi.org/10.1162/003355303322552810)

   URL [https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aer.103.5.1925](https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aer.103.5.1925)

6.4 Business Cycles


   URL [https://doi.org/10.1162/rest_a_00875](https://doi.org/10.1162/rest_a_00875)

### 6.5 Human Capital


### 6.6 Technology


6.7 Outsourcing


6.8 Monopsony & Market Concentration


7 General Rules

**Academic Integrity:** Please note that academic misconduct (cheating) will NOT be tolerated. In addition, students have the responsibility to know and observe the requirements of *University Policy 407 (The Code of Student Academic Integrity)*. This code forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submissions of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. Academic evaluations in this course include a judgment that the student’s work is free from academic dishonesty of any type; and grades in this course therefore should be and will be adversely affected by academic dishonesty. Students who violate the code can be expelled from UNC Charlotte. The normal penalty for a first offense is zero credit on the work involving dishonesty and further substantial reduction of the course grade. In almost all cases, the course grade is reduced to U. Copies of the code can be obtained from the Dean of Students Office. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty to the course instructor.

**Statement on Diversity:** The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.

**Adverse Weather:** If the University is closed or if the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School system is closed, there will be no class. If you commute in from outside the county and there is adverse weather there (but not in Mecklenburg County), make your own decision to attend or not, but remember we do not want you to endanger life or limb just to get to class.
**Communication:** Email is the preferred means of communication. Whenever we email an individual or the entire class, we will use your official university email address. You are responsible for monitoring this address: we will not use your private address.

**Disability Services:** UNC Charlotte is committed to access to education. Students in this course seeking accommodations to disabilities must first consult with the Office of Disability Services and follow the instructions of that office for obtaining accommodations. Contact the Office of Disability Services at 704-687-0040 or visit their office in Fretwell 230.

**Last Day of Participation:** If a student earns an F or U grade, the last date of attendance will be reported. This may require the student to pay back any financial aid money received for this course.