

COURSE INFORMATION

LABOUR ECONOMICS

Code number: 515109210
BA in Work Science
Academic Year: 2017-2018
Foundational course. 2nd year
Second Sem: 4 hours a week, 2 days a week
6 credits

TEACHING STAFF

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PROGRAMME

1. DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to labor economics. We study the labor market. We will describe the determinants of the labor supply and labor demand. Also, we will determine the wages and the salary structure. In sum, this course is concerned with a group of topics on the microeconomic aspects of the labor market, and selected topics on the macroeconomic issues of labor.

2. PREREQUISITES

This course is taught entirely in English. Therefore, students must have an adequate knowledge of the English language, at least of level B2.

3. OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- Understand the market process of wage determination
- Analyze the impact of labour market
- Analyze the impact of government policies on wages and incentives to work
- Understand the difference between labor economic and labor relation issues
- Apply theoretical knowledge to practical problems
- Determine the relationship between economics growth and labor

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Applying the microeconomic theory to the labor market
- Determine the wage and employment
- Understand the supply of labor, labor participation, the demand for labor and details the market structure of wages
- Economic aspects of labor unions.
- Theories of wages.

4. TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Methodology	Activity	Description	Hours
Total presence (63 hours)	Theoretical lessons	Magisterial lessons promoting students' participation	22,5
	Practical lessons	Exercises and practical cases	13,5
		Reduced groups: self-learning activities under lecturer's supervision	9
	Evaluation	Written and/or oral exams	9
Autonomous work load (77 hours)	Individual assignments	Search for information Reading Use of information technologies (IT) Problem sets resolution	30
		Contents' learning	Theoretical (concepts and fundaments) and practical course contents
Office hours (10 hours)	Individual	Office- and distance-based (e-mail). Questions resolution	10

The virtual platform Moodle <<http://moodle.uhu.es/contenidos/login/index.php>> will include appropriate support and guidance material for the lessons. For theoretical lessons, we will use the following resources: (i) traditional blackboard; (ii) presentations; and (iii) supplementary material uploaded in Moodle. Practical lessons will serve to explore the theoretical course contents from an applied perspective. To this end, we will focus on problem resolution procedures, its strengths and limitations. Interactive lessons will not only be encouraged but also taken into account in the final grade

5. CONTENTS

BLOCK I. INTRODUCTION

Topic 1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

- 1.1. The discipline of labor economics
- 1.2. Basic concepts and overviews
- 1.3. Labor Market Indicators
- 1.3. Spanish and European labor market
- 1.4. Data source

BLOCK II. THE LABOR AND SUPPLY DEMAND

Topic 2. LABOR SUPPLY

- 2.1. Basic model
- 2.2. Extensions

- 2.3. Becker model
- 2.4. Participation rates
- 2.5. Cyclical change in participation rates
- 2.6. Analysis of the Economic Situation
- Topic 3. LABOR DEMAND
- 3.1. Short run
- 3.2. Long run
- 3.3. Elasticity
- 3.4. Determinants
- 3.5. The market demand of labor
- 3.6. Isoquant and isocost

BLOCK III: WAGE DETERMINATION

- Topic 4. WAGES AND ALLOCATION OF LABOUR
- 4.1. Wage determination in competitive markets
- 4.2. Wage determination in non-competitive markets
- 4.3. Monopoly
- 4.4. Monopsony
- Topic 5. WAGE STRUCTURE
- 5.1. Perfect competition
- 5.2. The wage structure
- 5.3. Wage differentials

BLOCK III: LABOUR MARKET

- Topic 6. GOVERNMENT AND THE LABOUR MARKET
- 6.1. Labour law
- 6.2. Minimum wage law
- Topic 7. LABOUR MARKET DISCRIMINATION
- 7.1. Gender and racial difference
- 7.2. Theory of statistical discrimination
- 7.3. Antidiscrimination policies and issues

BLOCK IV: EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

- Topic 8. Unemployment
- 8.1. Overview of the study of Unemployment: the case of Spain
- 8.2. The relationship between unemployment and economic growth
- 8.3. Frictional unemployment
- 8.4. Structural unemployment

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

MAIN REFERENCES

- BORJAS, G (2015): *Labor Economics*. (7th Ed.) McGraw-Hill.
- McCONNELL, Campbel R., BRUE, Stanley L. y Macpherson, D.A. (2015): *Contemporary Labour Economics*. (9th Ed.), McGraw-Hill
- PINDYCK, R.S. & RUBINFELD, D.L. (2013): *Microeconomics* (8th Ed.), Pearson Prentice Hall.

OTHER REFERENCES

- CAHUC, P. AND A. ZYLBERBERG (2004): *Labor Economics*, MIT Press.
- EHRENBERG R. AND R. SMITH (2008): *Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy*, 10TH edition, Pearson / Addison Wesley

- HAMERMESH D. AND A. REES (1999): The Economics of Work and Pay, 5th edition, Harper and Row,

7. ASSESSMENT

Instruments	Description	Elements to be evaluated	Weight
Written exam	Individual control to evaluate theoretical and practical knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem-solving ability • Application of theoretical contents to practice • Synthesis capacity • Knowledge and understanding level • Absence of errors • Proper use of concepts and terminology • Internal consistency of the written exam itself, and consistency between the exam and the topic • Correct spelling, grammar and syntax • Ability to interrelate theories, models and concepts • Concreteness and accuracy of answers 	80
Continuous evaluation	(i) activities portfolio: set of practical exercises - questionnaires and problem sets-. (ii) active participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct use of language in both oral and written activities • Clarity of analysis and presentation of results • Problem-solving ability • Supervised academic activity (SAA): ability to plan, develop and present empirical work about different aspects of the subject 	20

Results obtained by the student in each of the subjects will be graded following a numerical scale between 0 and 10 (with one decimal), which is associated to its corresponding qualitative rating:

- - 4.9: Fail (D)
- 5.0 - 6.9: Pass (C)
- 7.0 - 8.9: Remarkable (B)
- 9.0 - 10: Outstanding (A)

The distinction "With honours" can only be awarded to students with a score equal to or greater than 9.0. The total number of distinctions cannot not exceed 5% of the students enrolled in the subject in the academic year (unless the number of students enrolled is lower to 20, in which case one distinction can be provided)

The grading system is subject to the bachelor's degree grading normative of the University of Huelva (Normativa de Evaluación para las Titulaciones de Grado de la Universidad de Huelva). Please, see:

<http://www.uhu.es/sec.general/Normativa/Texto_Normativa/Normativa_de_Evaluacion_grados.pdf>.

In particular, incidence exams will be subject to article 19 of this normative.