Syllabus – Advanced Labor Economics

ECON 9220, Fall 2015
Tuesday, 1:00–3:30, Aderhold 429
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Course homepage: http://unionstats.gsu.edu/9220

The goals of ECON 9220 are to understand and engage in theoretical and empirical research in labor economics. The course will emphasize key topics and associated journal articles. Learning will be achieved through careful reading, discussion, and analysis of these papers, coupled with conduct of one’s own research.

Grades in the course will be based on a research paper (35%), final exam (35%), take-home data assignment (20%), and class presentation/participation (10%).

Research papers may focus on a labor economics topic of your choice, subject to instructor approval. It is expected that most papers will have a strong empirical component, although exceptions are possible. Your paper proposal is due September 22. The final paper is due December 1.

Attendance at selected department seminars is requested and, in some cases, required. All work is to be completed as scheduled. Dates to note are as follows:

Paper proposal: Tuesday, September 22
Data Analysis assignment due date, October 6
Usery Distinguished Lecture: Gary Solon (Arizona), Intergenerational Mobility, Wed, Nov 11, 10:30-noon, AYS 749/50
Research Paper and Presentation: Tuesday, December 1
Final exam: Tuesday, December 8, 10:45-1:15


All reading listed on the syllabus other than the text are provided on-line, at http://unionstats.gsu.edu/9220.


Students are required to know and abide by Georgia State University’s Academic Honesty Policy, which prohibits dishonesty in academic work (http://codeofconduct.gsu.edu/files/2013/03/2014-2015-Section-II-Academic-Conduct-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf).

GSU complies with the ADA. Students needing academic accommodations must provide appropriate documentation to the Office of Disability Services. If you require special accommodations, you must provide documentation from GSU Disability Services and make arrangements with the instructor prior to an exam, assignment, or presentation.
ECON 9220 Course Outline and Readings (* designate required reading)


   * CCZ, Ch. 2 (pp. 3-23, lightly read pp. 23-58)

   * CCZ, Ch. 4
   J. Mincer, Schooling, Experience, and Earnings, 1974.
* CCZ, Ch. 3
* D. Card, “Good Jobs: The Importance of Who You Work For,” Focus (U. Wisconsin IRP), Spring/Summer 2013

6. [10/13] Labor Demand, Mandates, and Minimum Wages
* CCZ, Ch. 2 (pp. 77-95, 116-118, 138-139); Ch. 12 (pp. 793-811)

7. [10/20] Skilled Biased Technological Change (SBTC), Wages, and Inequality
* CCZ, Ch. 10 (omit pp. 650-657)
8. [10/27] Migration
* CCZ, Ch. 11 (pp. 714-733)

* CCZ, Ch. 9 (pp. 553-578)

* CCZ, Ch. 8 (pp. 479-542)

* CCZ, Ch. 7 (pp. 448-466)

12. [12/1] Student Research Presentations

CCZ, Ch. 6