The goal of this course is to provide you with ideas and analytical tools for understanding a wide-range of topical issues in labor economics and applied microeconomics.

Your grade for this class will depend on a research proposal (40%), five problem sets (50%), and class participation (10%).

Supplemental Texts:
The course will be based primarily on papers, lecture notes and book chapters. However, I and many other applied economists find the following econometrics texts helpful:


Course Outline and Readings

1. Empirical Methods in Labor

a. OLS, Matching, IV and Control Functions (estimating the returns to schooling)


b. Regression Discontinuity


c. Decomposition Methods


d. Quantile Regressions


2. Labor Demand and Wage Inequality


b. Immigration


3. Labor Supply

a. Labor Supply Basics


b. Female Labor Supply


c. Labor Supply and Taxes


d. Disability Insurance and Work Incentives


e. Migration


4. Search, Matching and Unemployment


5. Unemployment Insurance


6. Insurance Markets


