



UNSW Course Outline

ECON2107 Modern Labour Markets: Theory and Policy - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : ECON2107

Year : 2024

Term : Term 3

Teaching Period : T3

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : UNSW Business School

Academic Unit : School of Economics

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

The course delivers general theoretical and practical knowledge of labour markets and policy issues related to labour markets. The topics include labour supply and labour demand, theories and practice of wage determination, wage structures and wage differentials, labour productivity,

labour mobility, labour market discrimination, and the role of government and unions in labour markets. The course also addresses macro-institutional outcomes, including labour force participation and evolution and change in labour markets. While drawing on the international literature and trends in international labour markets, the course places special emphasis on Australian labour market attributes and examples. You will acquire theoretical and practical tools to understand and analyse various labour markets phenomena.

Course Aims

The pre-requisites for this course are ECON1203 Business and Economics Statistics (or its equivalent) and ECON1101 Microeconomics (or its equivalent). The material in this course builds on key economic concepts that enable us to understand and investigate the functioning of the labour market, such as demand, supply, equilibrium and disequilibrium, market failure, market power, and so on. We will draw on microeconomic models, critical appraisal of the academic literature, and empirical evidence to make sense of current labour market debates both in Australia and overseas. The course also involves examination and analysis of Australian data using skills developed in introductory statistics.

The course aims to develop skills that will be useful for further study in applied microeconomics, evaluation methods and macroeconomics.

Relationship to Other Courses

This is a second-year undergraduate elective course in labour economics that complements other applied economics courses.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes	Program learning outcomes
CLO1 : Analyse the structure of labour markets and frictions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL01 : Business Knowledge • PL02 : Problem Solving • PL03 : Business Communication • PL05 : Responsible Business Practice • PL06 : Global and Cultural Competence • PL07 : Leadership Development
CLO2 : Analyse the interactions between aggregate economic forces and identify the role of firms, workers and government in the economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL01 : Business Knowledge • PL02 : Problem Solving • PL03 : Business Communication • PL05 : Responsible Business Practice • PL06 : Global and Cultural Competence • PL07 : Leadership Development
CLO3 : Consider the integral concepts of labour issues (such as unemployment, taxation, educational choice, wage differentials, discrimination, etc.) and interpret related data outputs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL01 : Business Knowledge • PL02 : Problem Solving • PL03 : Business Communication • PL05 : Responsible Business Practice • PL06 : Global and Cultural Competence • PL07 : Leadership Development
CLO4 : Analyse labour market issues using current data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL01 : Business Knowledge • PL02 : Problem Solving • PL03 : Business Communication • PL05 : Responsible Business Practice • PL06 : Global and Cultural Competence • PL07 : Leadership Development
CLO5 : Apply econometric tools to analyse processes related to labour markets and develop a practical understanding of statistical inference issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL01 : Business Knowledge • PL02 : Problem Solving • PL03 : Business Communication • PL05 : Responsible Business Practice • PL06 : Global and Cultural Competence • PL07 : Leadership Development

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Analyse the structure of labour markets and frictions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Answer Questions • Tutorial Data Exercises • Final exam
CLO2 : Analyse the interactions between aggregate economic forces and identify the role of firms, workers and government in the economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Answer Questions • Tutorial Data Exercises • Final exam
CLO3 : Consider the integral concepts of labour issues (such as unemployment, taxation, educational choice, wage differentials, discrimination, etc.) and interpret related data outputs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Answer Questions • Tutorial Data Exercises • Final exam
CLO4 : Analyse labour market issues using current data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tutorial Data Exercises
CLO5 : Apply econometric tools to analyse processes related to labour markets and develop a practical understanding of statistical inference issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Answer Questions • Final exam • Tutorial Data Exercises

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Learning and Teaching in this course

Approach to Learning and Teaching in the Course

Central to providing students with a sense of achievement in a complex discipline such as economics is striving to work along two fundamental dimensions of economic knowledge: its scientific approach and methodology, and its social dimension. This course will stress the importance of developing and using skills to create and weigh economic arguments, where ideas and theories interplay with the evidence that supports or refutes them. These skills will enable students to actively and critically participate in the ongoing debates and developments relevant to labour markets worldwide. Most of us spend a large fraction of our lives working, and much of this work is monetised and occurs as part of market transactions between employers and employees. We have designed this course to empower students with skills and knowledge to address a general topic that is relevant to every country in the world and that has large human consequences.

In both lectures and tutorials, your teaching staff will look for active student contributions through discussion and questioning that reflects your assigned course reading and your

experience. Tutorials are heavily weighted towards experiential learning: you are encouraged to explore theoretical concepts, develop your communication skills, and exercise your imagination.

Learning Activities and Teaching Strategies

The examinable content of this course is defined by the references given in the course outline and the Moodle site, the content of lectures, and the content of the tutorial program.

Lectures

The purpose of lectures is (i) to provide a logical structure for the topics that make up the course; (ii) to emphasise the important concepts and methods of each topic; and (iii) to provide relevant examples to which the concepts, models and methods are applied. Lecture slides can be downloaded from Moodle prior to each lecture. All lectures will be delivered in-person with the exception of the lecture scheduled for Monday of Week 5, which due to the public holiday that day will be delivered online via Zoom (link and re-scheduled time to be provided on Moodle).

Tutorials

Tutorials are an integral part of this course, and will include assessable activities as detailed below under Assessment. Tutorials offer the opportunity to review and extend your grasp of key concepts introduced in lectures. A small set of tutorial questions will be provided for each week's tutorial via Moodle. The feedback discussed in class will help guide your own understanding and performance in the course.

Out-of-Class Study

Much of your learning will be achieved outside of class time. Lectures can only provide a structure to assist your study, and tutorial time is limited.

An "ideal" strategy (on which the provision of the course materials is based) might see you proceeding as follows each week:

1. Read the relevant chapter(s) of the textbook and any other resources referenced for the week. Access the lecture slides from Moodle.
2. Attend the weekly lecture. Here the context of the topic in the course and the important elements of the topic will be identified. The relevance of the topic will be explained. (Studies show that students who attend class more frequently get better marks!)
3. (Possibly over the weekend) Review the notes you took during lecture, and attempt the tutorial

questions.

4. Attend your tutorial. It is expected that students attend at least 80% of tutorials. Each tutorial will focus on material from the preceding week's lecture.
5. Regularly seek interaction and feedback about specific areas of confusion or interest during consultation times, via Moodle, and/or by email.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates	Program learning outcomes
Short Answer Questions Assessment Format: Individual	30%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Short Answer Questions set #1 due Wednesday, 23 Oct by 4pm; Short Answer Questions set #2 due Wednesday, 13 Nov by 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PL01 : Business Knowledge• PL02 : Problem Solving• PL03 : Business Communication• PL05 : Responsible Business Practice• PL06 : Global and Cultural Competence• PL07 : Leadership Development
Tutorial Data Exercises Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (1 day)	10%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Due weekly in-tutorial as specified in the assessment overview section.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PL01 : Business Knowledge• PL02 : Problem Solving• PL03 : Business Communication• PL05 : Responsible Business Practice• PL06 : Global and Cultural Competence• PL07 : Leadership Development
Final exam Assessment Format: Individual	60%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: University Examination Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PL01 : Business Knowledge• PL02 : Problem Solving• PL03 : Business Communication• PL05 : Responsible Business Practice• PL06 : Global and Cultural Competence• PL07 : Leadership Development

Assessment Details

Short Answer Questions

Assessment Overview

Students can apply the concepts they have learnt in Labour Economics by completing short answer questions. Students will be provided with labour markets data and will be required to interpret the data and answer questions using the knowledge gained in lectures and tutorials.

There will be two question sets during the term. Details on the assignment and submission procedure will be made available on Moodle.

Assesses: PLO1, PLO2, PLO3, PLO5, PLO6, PLO7

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Analyse the structure of labour markets and frictions.
- CL02 : Analyse the interactions between aggregate economic forces and identify the role of firms, workers and government in the economy.
- CL03 : Consider the integral concepts of labour issues (such as unemployment, taxation, educational choice, wage differentials, discrimination, etc.) and interpret related data outputs.
- CL05 : Apply econometric tools to analyse processes related to labour markets and develop a practical understanding of statistical inference issues.

Detailed Assessment Description

Each Short Answer Questions set is worth 15%.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.

If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

Tutorial Data Exercises

Assessment Overview

Students will be required to complete a weekly data exercise in tutorials. The data exercise will involve students graphing and interpreting recent data related to labour markets. This assessment item will also provide students with up-to-date feedback on their understanding of the ideas and concepts covered in the course.

Each student must hand in individual answers to the exercise around the end of each tutorial. The data exercise in the first tutorial (in week 2) will allow students to practice interpreting labour-market data, and will not be assessed. The data exercises in all other tutorials will be assessed. However, students will be allowed to miss handing in one week data exercise without penalty. There will be 7 data exercises available for submission, and the top-scoring 6 for each student will be used to calculate that student's mark.

Assesses: PLO1, PLO2, PLO3, PLO5, PLO6, PLO7

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Analyse the structure of labour markets and frictions.
- CLO2 : Analyse the interactions between aggregate economic forces and identify the role of firms, workers and government in the economy.
- CLO3 : Consider the integral concepts of labour issues (such as unemployment, taxation, educational choice, wage differentials, discrimination, etc.) and interpret related data outputs.
- CLO4 : Analyse labour market issues using current data.
- CLO5 : Apply econometric tools to analyse processes related to labour markets and develop a practical understanding of statistical inference issues.

Detailed Assessment Description

Each of the six data exercises that count for a given student will be equally weighted.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

Final exam

Assessment Overview

The purpose of the final exam is to assess your understanding of labour economics concepts and models introduced in the course, and to test your ability to use these to interpret and analyse labour market issues. The final exam will cover material taught in all weeks and it will be held during the University examination period.

The exam is expected to take approximately 2 hours to complete.

The final exam is worth 60% of the overall course mark. Further details will be provided closer to the date of the exam.

Assesses: PLO1, PLO2, PLO3, PLO5, PLO6, PLO7

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Analyse the structure of labour markets and frictions.
- CL02 : Analyse the interactions between aggregate economic forces and identify the role of firms, workers and government in the economy.
- CL03 : Consider the integral concepts of labour issues (such as unemployment, taxation, educational choice, wage differentials, discrimination, etc.) and interpret related data outputs.
- CL05 : Apply econometric tools to analyse processes related to labour markets and develop a practical understanding of statistical inference issues.

Detailed Assessment Description

(*)This course will have an invigilated exam held on UNSW's Kensington campus. It is a mandatory requirement that you attend the exam on-campus.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

In order to pass this course students must:

- Achieve a composite mark of at least 50 out of 100
- Engage actively in course learning activities and attempt all assessment requirements
- Meet any additional requirements specified in the assessment details
- Meet the specified attendance requirements of the course (see Schedule section)

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 9 September - 15 September	Lecture	Introduction to Labour Economics The Demand for Labour E&S Chapters 1 - 2 E&S Chapter 3
	Tutorial	No tutorials this week.
Week 2 : 16 September - 22 September	Lecture	Labour Demand (continued) Labour Supply - theory E&S Chapters 3 - 5 E&S Chapter 6
	Tutorial	Introduction to Labour Economics The Demand for Labour E&S Chapters 1 - 2 E&S Chapter 3
Week 3 : 23 September - 29 September	Lecture	Labour Supply - Empirical Implications Heterogeneity in Workers and Firms E&S Chapter 7 E&S Chapter 8
	Tutorial	Labour Demand (continued) Labour Supply - theory E&S Chapters 3 - 5 E&S Chapter 6
Week 4 : 30 September - 6 October	Lecture	Heterogeneity in Workers and Firms (continued) Education and Human Capital E&S Chapter 8 E&S Chapter 9
	Tutorial	Labour Supply - Empirical Implications Heterogeneity in Workers and Firms E&S Chapter 7 E&S Chapter 8
Week 5 : 7 October - 13 October	Lecture	International Labour Markets and Migration Wage determination: pay and productivity E&S Chapter 10 E&S Chapter 11
	Tutorial	Heterogeneity in Workers and Firms Education and Human Capital E&S Chapter 8 E&S Chapter 9
Week 6 : 14 October - 20 October	Lecture	No lectures this week (Flexibility Week).
	Tutorial	No tutorials this week (Flexibility Week).
Week 7 : 21 October - 27 October	Lecture	Wage determination: pay and productivity (continued) Labour Market Discrimination E&S Chapter 11 E&S Chapter 12
	Tutorial	International Labour Markets and Migration Wage determination: pay and productivity

		E&S Chapter 10 E&S Chapter 11
	Assessment	Answers to Short Answer Questions set #1 due Wednesday, 23 October by 4pm
Week 8 : 28 October - 3 November	Lecture	No lectures this week.
	Tutorial	Wage determination: pay and productivity (continued) Labour Market Discrimination E&S Chapter 11 E&S Chapter 12
Week 9 : 4 November - 10 November	Lecture	Unemployment and labour market mobility E&S Chapter 14
	Tutorial	Unemployment and labour market mobility E&S Chapter 14
Week 10 : 11 November - 17 November	Lecture	Inequality E&S Chapter 15
	Tutorial	Inequality E&S Chapter 15
	Assessment	Answers to Short Answer Questions set #2 due Wednesday, 13 November by 4pm

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

The textbook for this course is:

- Ehrenberg, Ronald G. and Robert S. Smith, Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy. 11th - 14th Edition, Pearson. [E&S]

Students may also find the following textbooks useful for some parts of the course:

- Borjas, George, Labor Economics. 5th Edition, McGraw Hill Irwin.
- Norris, Keith. Economics of Australian Labour Markets. 5th Edition, Longman Publishing.

Additional materials (e.g., academic articles, newspaper and online media content) will be posted to the relevant section of the course website on Moodle.

The website for this course is on [UNSW Moodle](#).

This website contains course material such as tutorial homework questions, data required for some homework tasks, a course discussion board, lecture materials (posted each week prior to the lecture), announcements, useful web links, and other resources. You are expected to check the [Moodle site](#) at least twice weekly for announcements, new resources, and other updates.

Course Evaluation and Development

Feedback is regularly sought from students and continual improvements are made based on this feedback. At the end of this course, you will be asked to complete the [myExperience survey](#), which provides a key source of student evaluative feedback. Your input into this quality enhancement process is extremely valuable in assisting us to meet the needs of our students and provide an effective and enriching learning experience. The results of all surveys are carefully considered and do lead to action towards enhancing educational quality.

The School of Economics strives to be responsive to student feedback. If you would like more information on how the design of this course and changes made to it over time have taken students' needs and preferences into account, please contact the Director of Education at the School of Economics.

Consent for De-Identified Data to be Used for Secondary Research into Improving Student Experience

To enhance your student experience, researchers at UNSW conduct academic research that involves the use of de-identified student data, such as assessment outcomes, course grades, course engagement and participation, etc. Students of this course are being invited to provide their consent for their de-identified data to be shared with UNSW researchers for research purposes after the course is completed.

Providing consent for your de-identified data to be used in academic research is voluntary and not doing so will not have an impact on your course grades.

Researchers who want to access your de-identified data for future research projects will need to submit individual UNSW Ethics Applications for approval before they can access your data.

A full description of the research activities aims, risks associated with these activities and how your privacy and confidentiality will be protected at all times can be found [here](#).

If you **consent** to have your de-identified data used for academic research into improving student experience, you do not need to do anything. Your consent will be implied, and your data may be used for research in a format that will not individually identify you after the course is completed.

If you **do not consent** for this to happen, please email the [opt-out form](#) to seer@unsw.edu.au to opt-out from having your de-identified data used in this manner. If you complete the opt-out form, the information about you that was collected during this course will not be used in academic

research.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Gigi Foster		BUS 453	93857472	Weekly office hours Wednesdays 10:30 AM - 12 PM, or by appointment	Yes	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

COURSE POLICIES AND SUPPORT

The Business School expects that you are familiar with the contents of this course outline and the UNSW and Business School learning expectations, rules, policies and support services as listed below:

- Program Learning Outcomes
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Student Responsibilities and Conduct
- Special Consideration
- Protocol for Viewing Final Exam Scripts
- Student Learning Support Services

Further information is provided on the [Policies and Guidelines](#) page.

Students may not circulate or post online any course materials such as handouts, exams, syllabi or similar resources from their courses without the written permission of their instructor.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) – under the Outcomes tab – are what you should be able to demonstrate by the end of this course, if you participate fully in learning activities and successfully complete the assessment items.

CLOs also contribute to your achievement of the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs), which are developed across the duration of a program. PLOs are, in turn, directly linked to [UNSW graduate capabilities](#). More information on Coursework PLOs is available on the [Policies and Guidelines](#) page. For PG Research PLOs, including MPDBS, please refer to [UNSW HDR learning](#)

[outcomes.](#)

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display [academic integrity](#) in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the [UNSW Code of Conduct](#) with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action. To assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Code of Conduct, it is strongly recommended that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

SHORT EXTENSIONS

Short Extension is a new process that allows you to apply for an extended deadline on your assessment without the need to provide supporting documentation, offering immediate approval during brief, life-disrupting events. Requests are automatically approved once submitted.

Short extensions are ONLY available for some assessments. Check your course outline or Moodle to see if this is offered for your assessments. Where a short extension exists, all students enrolled in that course in that term are eligible to apply. Further details are available the UNSW [Current Students](#) page.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances beyond your control interfere with your performance in a specific assessment task or tasks, including online exams. Special consideration is primarily intended to provide you with an extra opportunity to demonstrate the level of performance of which you are capable.

Applications can only be made online and will NOT be accepted by teaching staff. Applications will be assessed centrally by the Case Review Team, who will update the online application with the outcome and add any relevant comments. The change to the status of the application

immediately sends an email to the student and to the assessor with the outcome of the application. The majority of applications will be processed within 3-5 working days.

For further information, and to apply, see Special Consideration on the UNSW [Current Students](#) page.

LATE SUBMISSION PENALTIES

LATE SUBMISSION PENALTIES

For assessments other than examinations, late submission will incur a penalty of 5% per day or part thereof (including weekends) from the due date and time. An assessment will not be accepted after 5 days (120 hours) of the original deadline unless special consideration has been approved. In the case of an approved Equitable Learning Plan (ELP) provision, special consideration or short extension, the late penalty applies from the date of approved time extension. After five days from the extended deadline, the assessment cannot be submitted.

An assessment is considered late if the requested format, such as hard copy or electronic copy, has not been submitted on time or where the 'wrong' assessment has been submitted.

For assessments which account for 10% or less of the overall course grade, and where answers are immediately discussed or debriefed, the LIC may stipulate a different penalty. Details of such late penalties will be available on the course Moodle page.

FEEDBACK ON YOUR ASSESSMENT TASK PERFORMANCE

Feedback on student performance from formative and summative assessment tasks will be provided to students in a timely manner. Assessment tasks completed within the teaching period of a course, other than a final assessment, will be assessed and students provided with feedback, with or without a provisional result, within 10 working days of submission, under normal circumstances. Feedback on continuous assessment tasks (e.g. laboratory and studio-based, workplace-based, weekly quizzes) will be provided prior to the midpoint of the course.

Faculty-specific Information

PROTOCOL FOR VIEWING FINAL EXAM SCRIPTS

UNSW students have the right to view their final exam scripts, subject to a small number of very specific exemptions. The UNSW Business School has set a [protocol](#) under which students may

view their final exam script. Individual schools within the Faculty may also set up additional local processes for viewing final exam scripts, so it is important that you check with your School.

If you are completing courses from the following schools, please note the additional school-specific information:

- Students in the **School of Accounting, Auditing & Taxation** who wish to view their final examination script should also refer to [this page](#).
- Students in the **School of Banking & Finance** should also refer to [this page](#).
- Students in the **School of Information Systems & Technology Management** should also refer to [this page](#).

COURSE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Feedback is regularly sought from students and continual improvements are made based on this feedback. At the end of this course, you will be asked to complete the [myExperience survey](#), which provides a key source of student evaluative feedback. Your input into this quality enhancement process is extremely valuable in assisting us to meet the needs of our students and provide an effective and enriching learning experience. The results of all surveys are carefully considered and do lead to action towards enhancing educational quality.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Business School is actively monitoring student learning and quality of the student experience in all its programs. A random selection of completed assessment tasks may be used for quality assurance, such as to determine the extent to which program learning goals are being achieved. The information is required for accreditation purposes, and aggregated findings will be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of Business School programs. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential.

TEACHING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Please note that teaching times and locations are subject to change. Students are strongly advised to refer to the [Class Timetable website](#) for the most up-to-date teaching times and locations.