

ECON 4290/5050 Labor Economics

Instructor Contact

Name: Xi Yang

Office Location: Wooten Hall 347

Delivery method: In person: Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:20 SAGE 335

Course materials will be on Canvas.

Office hours: In person or on Zoom (<https://unt.zoom.us/j/7286678727>):

Tuesday/Thursday 9:00 am-11:00 am Or by appointment

Communication: Please contact me via email (at xi.yang@unt.edu).

Course Description and Objectives

This course is an introduction to the analysis of labor markets with primary reference to the United States economy. Topics include labor supply and demand, labor productivity, education return and decision, migration and immigration, discrimination, unemployment, and income inequality. We will also discuss government policy regarding the labor market, like the minimum wage and welfare programs.

This course is designed to provide students with a better understanding of the complexities of the labor market. By the end of the course, students should have the ability to:

- Understand the theoretical and empirical tools used to analyze labor market and public policy issues.
- Interpret labor market statistics and understand recent trends in the economy.
- Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of government policies in terms of their effects on labor markets.

Course Prerequisites

This course is an application of standard microeconomics, which is why a strong foundation of Microeconomic theory is required. Students in this course should have completed Intermediate Microeconomics (ECON 3550) with a grade of C or better. Some basic algebra and graphing will also be used on this course.

Course Materials

- Course materials (syllabus, lecture notes, problem sets, quizzes, and practice exams) are available on Canvas. You should print and bring the lecture notes to class.
- Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy (11th or 12th edition) by Ronald Ehrenberg and Robert Smith.

Course Requirements

This course is in person, and we meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 to 12:20. Almost every week, we will have a problem set. Problem set usually requires you to draw figures, so you can write your solution on paper, take a photo of it, and submit it as an attachment on canvas. Each problem set is due next Tuesday. Each week, we will have a quiz. Each quiz takes about 5 to 10 minutes and is based on materials covered in class.

TWO exams will be given during the semester: one midterm exam and a comprehensive final exam. The exam dates and material covered on each exam are as follows:

- **Midterm Exam: Tuesday, March, 17th, 11:00 am-12:20 pm (Lectures 1-7)**
- **Final Exam: Tuesday, May 5th, 10:00 am-12:00 pm (Lectures 1-12)**

All exams are closed-book and closed-notes. However, you will be able to prepare a hand-written cheat sheet on a letter size page (both sides) and use it during tests. Here is the list of graded items and their contribution to your final grade. The final grade will be based on a weighted average of the percentage grades on each assignment. Graduate students who enrolled in 5050 will be assigned additional reading lists and a term paper at the end of the semester.

Item	Percentage of Final Grade
Quizzes	5%
Class Presentation	10%
Problem Sets	15%
Mid-term Exam	30%
Final Exam	40%
Sum of all Items Total Possible	100%

Grading

There is no way to perfectly calibrate an exam so that students with A performances will score between 90 and 100 points, students with B performances score between 80 and 89 points, etc. Each mid-term exam and the final exam will be curved as needed for the performances to match the awarded grades (see below to check my criteria).

- A: 90-100. The student demonstrates knowledge of the economic models and the intuition behind them, and they also demonstrate an ability to apply the models to novel situations.
- B: 80-89. The student demonstrates knowledge of the economic models and the intuition behind them but has trouble applying the models to novel situations.
- C: 60-79. The student demonstrates knowledge of the economics models but has trouble explaining the intuition behind them and cannot apply the models to novel situations.
- F: < 60. The student demonstrates little understanding of the course content.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic
1	Lecture 0 Syllabus Lecture 1 Overview of Labor Market
2	Lecture 2 Labor Supply: Basic Model
3	Lecture 3 Labor Supply: Extension
4	Lecture 4 Labor Supply: Policies
5	Lecture 5 Labor Demand
6	Lecture 6 Labor Market Equilibrium
7	Lecture 7 Rigid Wage and Minimum Wage
8	Review Session Midterm Exam
9	Lecture 8 Segmented Labor Market
10	Lecture 9 Heterogenous Workers
11	Lecture 10 Immigration
12	Lecture 11 Trade and Technology (Gig Economics & Remote Work)
13	Lecture 12 Inequality
14	Potential topics: Lecture Empirical Method in Labor Economics Review Session
15	Presentation
16	Final Exam

[Course Policies](#)

[Grade Appeals](#)

If you think that an exam has been incorrectly graded, submit a written explanation of the problem no later than 1 week after the exams have been returned. This deadline applies regardless of whether you are present in class at the time the exams are returned. I will respond to you in writing as soon as possible. If there is still a disagreement, schedule a Zoom appointment so that we may further discuss the problem.

[Late work or Make-up Exams](#)

No late submission or make-up exams will be given unless you notify me of the situation as soon as possible and can provide documented evidence of a valid excuse. The instructor is the judge of what constitutes a valid excuse.

[Withdrawals](#)

University policy relative to withdrawals will be followed. Please consult with your academic advisor or UNT academic calendar for the last date you can:

- Drop with an automatic grade of W
- Drop with a W if you are passing the course
- Last day you can drop a course at all

It is vital that you consult with your academic advisor prior to dropping any course. It can have dire effects on your financial aid and/or academic record.

[Course Evaluation](#)

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course. You should receive an email from SPOT listing the timeframe in which you can participate in the SPOT evaluation.

[Final Exam Schedule](#)

Final exams must be administered at the designated times according to the published schedule. Any deviation from the schedule must be approved in advance by the appropriate academic dean. If a student has three final exams scheduled on one day, he or she may appeal to his or her respective faculty member to reschedule one of those examinations on another day during the final examination period. Should none of the faculty members agree to reschedule an examination, the student may appeal to the Dean or the Dean's designee of their respective major. The decision of the dean (or the Dean's designee) is final. Please consult [UNT Policy 06.031](#) for information on the procedures for requesting rescheduling of final examinations. Additional information on this policy, as well as the schedule for final exams, can be found on the [Registrar's website](#).

COVID-19 Impact on Attendance

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. While attendance is expected, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

If you are experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

Technical Requirements & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements and Skills

- Computer with speakers, webcam with microphone and Microsoft Office
- Reliable internet access
- Working knowledge of Canvas [Canvas Technical Requirements](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements) (<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>)

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

Provide a list of course-specific technical skills learners must have to succeed in the course, such as:

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments
- Downloading and installing software
- Using spreadsheet programs
- Using presentation and graphics programs

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors online. Here are some general guidelines:

- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in email or any other communication.

- Always use your professors' proper title: Dr. or Prof., or if in doubt use Mr. or Ms.
- Unless specifically invited, don't refer to your instructor by first name.
- Use clear and concise language.
- Remember that all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar (this includes discussion boards).
- Avoid slang terms such as and texting abbreviations.
- Use standard fonts such as Arial, Calibri or Times new Roman and use a size 11 or 12 point font
- AVOID USING ALL CAPS WHEN TYPING, IT IS REALY ANNOYING TO THE READER.
- Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons like :) or ☺.
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is often lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or sound offensive.
- Be careful with personal information (both yours and other's).
- Do not send confidential information via e-mail

See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (<https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips>) for more information.

Success in an Online Course

While the online classroom shares many similarities with the face-to-face classroom, success in online education requires certain skills and expectations that students may not be aware of. Consider providing tips for success based on your own online teaching and learning experiences. You can also include a link to or adapt tips from this webpage for students, [“How to Succeed as an Online Student”](https://clear.unt.edu/teaching-resources/online-teaching/succeed-online) (<https://clear.unt.edu/teaching-resources/online-teaching/succeed-online>).

Getting Help

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](#)

(<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

Student Support Services

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](#) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](#) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [UNT Care Team](#) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](#) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)
- [Individual Counseling](#) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

Other student support services offered by UNT include

- [Registrar](#) (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
- [Financial Aid](#) (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)
- [Student Legal Services](#) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
- [Career Center](#) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)

- [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (<https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (<https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance>)
- [UNT Food Pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>)

Academic Support Services

- [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources) (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)
- [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc) (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
- [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/) (<https://library.unt.edu/>)
- [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/) (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)
- [MathLab](https://math.unt.edu/mathlab) (<https://math.unt.edu/mathlab>)

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation.]

ADA Policy

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access website](http://www.unt.edu/oda) at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's

records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect) (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 [insert administration dates] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website](http://spot.unt.edu/) (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email spot@unt.edu.

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual

assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website](http://www.ecfr.gov/) (<http://www.ecfr.gov/>). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Student Verification

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See [UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses](#) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002>).

Use of Student Work

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form

Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.
2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.

3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.

Example: This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions.

Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

[Copyright Notice](#)

Materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection. Materials may include, but are not limited to: documents, slides, images, audio, and video. Materials in this course Web site are only for the use of students enrolled in this course, for purposes associated with this course, and may not be retained for longer than the class term. Unauthorized retention, duplication, distribution, or modification of copyrighted materials is strictly prohibited by law.