



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2021

### 8,262: Labor Economics: Theory and Applications

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (60%)

Examination time: term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,262,1.00 Labor Economics: Theory and Applications](#) -- Englisch -- [Eugster Beatrix](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

The course covers both theoretical models as well as empirical applications. Solid background in microeconomics and microeconometrics is required. It is an advantage to have interest and basic knowledge in policy evaluation and causal analysis.

#### Learning objectives

In this course students will:

- learn the most important theoretical concepts in Labor Economics,
- understand challenges and detect pitfalls when studying empirical analyses of causal effects in Labor Economics,
- develop and defend own empirical identification strategies, and
- synthesize their ideas in a presentation or short report.

By the end of this course students will have acquired a good overview of current topics in Labor Economics. They will be able to use their knowledge on empirical strategies for their own Master thesis, PhD studies, or any industry position requiring evidence-based decision making.

#### Course content

This course introduces into selected topics in the field of Labor Economics. Its aim is to acquaint students with theories and applications in Labor Economics and to encourage the development of research interest in this field. The topics covered in the course include Labor Supply, Labor Demand, Human Capital, and Discrimination.

Students will get to know state-of-the-art theoretical models and empirical papers at the current research frontier. After this course, students will be able to understand and critically analyze empirical research papers, summarize them, and set them into perspective to the current policy.

#### Course structure

The course is targeted to Master students in economics during their first or second year.

The course consists of 11 lectures (1 cancelled due to ascension) and is structured as follows:



- Lecture 1: Introduction to Labor Economics (LE)
- Lecture 2: Self-study (preparation of presentation), virtual office hours
- Lectures 3 / 5 / 7 / 9: Student presentations on theoretical concepts of LE (book chapters)
- Lectures 4 / 6 / 8 / 10: Discussion of empirical papers
- Lecture 11: Self-study (writing of summary), virtual office hours

Independent study is expected as students will be required to:

- Prepare a presentation on a theoretical concept of LE
- Read empirical papers prior to lectures
- Write a summary of an empirical paper

## Course literature

Course book: Cahuc, P., S. Carcillo, and A. Zylberberg: *Labor Economics 2nd edition*, MIT Press 2014

Empirical papers provided on Canvas.

## Additional course information

Due to the current pandemic, if class size exceeds room capacity, the course will be delivered online.

In the case of the President's Board having to implement new directives due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in SpS2021, the course information listed above will be changed as follows:

- The course is conducted online via the platform Zoom;
- The recordings of the course are available for 30 days;
- The lecturer informs via StudyNet on the changed implementation modalities of the course.

The examination information listed below would be changed as follows:

- The presentations are conducted online and are being recorded.

## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

#### 1. Examination sub part (1/2)

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (40%)

Examination time: term time

##### Remark

Groups and topics are assigned randomly.

##### Examination-aid rule

Presentations

In presentations, aids for visual presentation can be used. These aids can be specified or restricted by the lecturers.

##### Supplementary aids

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##### Examination languages



Question language: English

Answer language: English

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## 2. Examination sub part (2/2)

### Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (60%)

Examination time: term time

### Remark

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### Examination-aid rule

Term papers

Term papers must be written without anyone else's help and in accordance with the known quotation standards, and they must contain a declaration of authorship which is a published template in StudentWeb.

The documentation of sources (quotations, bibliography) has to be done throughout and consistently in accordance with the chosen citation standard such as APA or MLA.

For papers in law, the legal standard is recommended (by way of example, cf. FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R. et SCHINDLER B., *Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende*, newest edition respectively, or according to the recommendations of the Law School).

The indications of the sources of information taken over verbatim or in paraphrase (quotations) must be integrated into texts in accordance with the precepts of the applicable quotation standard, while informative and bibliographical notes must be added as footnotes (recommendations and standards can be found, for example, in METZGER, C., *Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien*, newest edition respectively).

For any work written at the HSG, the indication of the page numbers is mandatory independent of the chosen citation standard. Where there are no page numbers in sources, precise references must be provided in a different way: titles of chapters or sections, section numbers, acts, scenes, verses, etc.

### Supplementary aids

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### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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## Examination content

Students are expected to make the following contributions:

1. They present the content of an assigned book chapter to their peers (40%). The presentation must be well understandable and be based on a set of slides.
2. They write a 3-page summary of an empirical research paper (60%). The summary must present the research question, methodology, and main results and contain a critical discussion of the paper.

## Examination relevant literature

Course book: Cahuc, P., S. Carcillo, and A. Zylberberg: *Labor Economics 2nd edition*, MIT Press, 2014

Empirical papers provided on Canvas.



### Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW21) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 12 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 04 (Thursday, 28 January 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 22 March 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 22 March 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 14 (Thursday, 8 April 2021).