



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2022

8,262: Labor Economics: Theory and Applications

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

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

Examination time: term time

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

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 and indications of the learning and teaching design

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 Methods: Cunningham, Scott: *Causal Inference: The Mixtape*, mixtape.scunning.com

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 SpS2022, 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 - examination paper written at home (individual) (60%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Term papers

Written work must be written without outside help according to the known citation standards, and a declaration of authorship must be attached, which is available as a template on the StudentWeb.



Documentation (quotations, bibliography, etc.) must be carried out universally and consistently according to the requirements of the chosen/specified citation standard such as e.g. APA or MLA.

The legal standard is recommended for legal work (cf. by way of example: FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R., SCHINDLER B., *Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende* (the latest edition in each case), or according to the recommendations of the Law School).

The reference sources of information (paraphrases, quotations, etc.) that has been taken over literally or in the sense of the original text must be integrated into the text in accordance with the requirements of the citation standard used. Informative and bibliographical notes must be included as footnotes (recommendations and standards e.g. in METZGER, C., *Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien* (latest edition)).

For all written work at the University of St.Gallen, the indication of page numbers is mandatory, regardless of the standard chosen. Where page numbers are missing in sources, the precise designation must be made differently: chapter or section title, section number, article, etc.

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/2)

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

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 at the start of the course.



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, 27 January 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 21 March 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 21 March 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 11 April 2022).