

## 【Course Aim】

- A. To discuss contemporary global issues in relation to human capital and labor market (mainly in Japan and the US), applying the concepts of labor economics
- B. To understand structures, analytical methods, and arguments of a well-cited research paper
- C. To discuss how the labor market works, using both theoretical and empirical evidence

## 【Contents of Course】

This course will analyze how the labor market works. We will cover a wide range of labor issues that are encountered on a daily basis (e.g., wage discrimination, unemployment, female labor participation, and job tenure). Each class is composed of two parts. For the first half, I will explain the basic concepts and principles of labor economics using our textbook. For the second half of the class, I will introduce a well-known research article, and we will discuss over some controversial research questions.

## 【Course Schedule】

- 【Week1】Introduction to the course
- 【Week2】Overview of Labor Economics
- 【Week3】Labor Supply: Labor Market of Married Women in Japan
- 【Week4】Labor Supply: Female Labor Participation and Wage Differentials in Japan and US
- 【Week5】Labor Supply: Labor supply of a New York taxi driver
- 【Week6】Labor Demand: Job tenure and earnings profile in Japan and the US
- 【Week7】Labor Demand: The End of Lifetime Employment in Japan?
- 【Week8】Labor Demand: A Case Study of the Fast-Food Industry in New Jersey & Pennsylvania
- 【Week9】Review and Evaluation
- 【Week10】Labor Equilibrium and Labor Mobility: The Immigration Policy
- 【Week11】Labor Market Wage Structure: The Changing Nature of Wage Inequality
- 【Week12】Labor Market Wage Structure: Labor Market Discrimination by Race and Gender
- 【Week13】Human Capital: Return on Schooling
- 【Week14】Human Capital: Does School Quality Matter?
- 【Week15】Review and Evaluation

## 【Preparation / Advice】

Students need to complete the assigned readings and prepare questions/topics for the in-class discussion sections. There will be mid-term examination. The problem sets and questions will be provided in advance. Please review the lecture slides and the main ideas of the given articles to prepare for the mid-term and final report.

## 【Texts】

George J. Borjas (2012). Labor Economics. Sixth Edition. McGraw-Hill International Edition. Lecture notes and reading materials will be distributed in class.

## 【Reference】

To be uploaded to the course Web

## 【Grading】

- Participation in class discussions (30%)
- Mid-term Examination(30%)
- Final Report (40%)

## 【Other】

This course is in upper division of Economics Program.  
Course schedule and grading system may change depending on students' performance.