Labor Economics I

MIT (14.661)
Fall 2023

Instructors: Abi Adams-Prassl, abi.adams-prassl@economics.ox.ac.uk; Daron Acemoglu, daron@mit.edu

TA: Daniel O'Connor, doconn@mit.edu

Lecture room and time: Tuesday, Thursday; 2:30-4:00 pm; E51-151

Recitation room and Time: Friday; 10:30-12:00 pm; E51-151

Office hours: O'Connor: Wednesday; 1:30-3:00 pm; E52-448
                    Adams-Prassl: Thursday; 11:00 am -12:00 pm; E52-454
                    Acemoglu: Monday; 1:30-2:30 pm; E52-446

This course covers traditional and contemporary topics in labor economics and aims to encourage the development of independent research interests. Prerequisites are intermediate microeconomics and a course in econometrics.

The class is offered in two versions, Minor (661) and Major (661a) Participants are asked to select one of these by our second meeting on Tuesday, September 12.

Class requirements

All 661 participants are expected to:

- Miss no more than two classes over the course of the term
- Take an out-of-class, in-person three-hour final during exam week (Date and time TBD)
- Complete four problem sets with a grade of at least 7/10
- Answer questions when called upon in class

In addition, 661a participants are expected to:

- Complete a research project of approximately 8-10 (1.5 spacing) pages. This research project is due on Wednesday, November 29, and subsequently Daron, Abi and Danny will meet with each of you to discuss the research project.
  - You should have a topic chosen by October 27 so that you have plenty of time to work on the project
  - Danny is available during office hours and by appointment to discuss finding a topic and writing the paper

MIT Economics Ph.D. (MEP) students wishing to satisfy major field requirements for labor should take 661a. Minor field requirements can be met by passing 661. Undergraduates and other non-MEP students take 661.

Grading

- 661a: four problem sets (8 points each); final (40 points); empirical project (18 points); attendance and engagement in class (10 points)
- 661: four problem sets (10 points each); final (50 points); attendance (10 points)

Logistics

Abigail Adams-Prassl will teach the first half. Daron Acemoglu will take over on October 24. Additionally, Daron will be gone on November 14. Instead, Danny will teach a recitation on that day, and Daron will teach class on October 27 during the regularly scheduled recitation.

Problem Sets

The problem sets are due on the Fridays before recitation. They will be released at least a week before they are due. You can submit on Canvas or hand it in to Danny at the start of the recitation. Below are all of the due dates.

    Problem Set 1: due on October 13
    Problem Set 2: due on November 8
    Problem Set 3: due on November 17
    Problem Set 4: due on December 1
    Problem Set 5: for practice

A canvas site has our readings, assignments, and recitation material.