Labour Economics (PG)

Module Code: ECO00029M   Credits: 10   Term: 2
Contact Hours: 18 Lectures
Module Organiser: Professor K. Mumford

Overview:

This course introduces some of the major issues that are encompassed within modern labour economics. The program begins with an exploration of issues in labour supply and demand, followed by studies of human capital theory and wage determination, discrimination and earnings, and collective bargaining and wage differentials.

The latter section of the course considers the macroeconomic implications of simultaneous job creation and destruction over the business cycle; gross worker flows; job search and the duration of unemployment; and mismatch and the structure of unemployment.

Discussion will include topics such as: minimum wage legislation; the impacts of unions in the 21st century; the gender wage gap; how voluntary is unemployment; the implications for training of imperfect markets; and the effectiveness of labour market programs.

Aims:

To provide students with the appropriate analytical framework to (a) appreciate recent theoretical debate, (b) evaluate new empirical evidence, and (c) contribute to the current policy debate.

Objectives:

On completion of the module a student should be able to realise the above aims and to analyse problems in advanced labour economics.

Assessment:

The entire assessment for grading purposes will be ascertained from an unseen 2 hour examination. Copies of the exam papers from previous years can be viewed on the web at http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/econ/course.yku/welcome.htm.

Pre-requisites:

A strong understanding of microeconomics and macroeconomics – as indicated by having an undergraduate degree in economics.
Main References:

Whilst there is no set text, a useful text book is:


Additional module reading consists of journal articles. Reading lists will be distributed in lectures.