

**ECON209: Labour Economics**  
Term 2, 2009-2010  
School of Economics, Singapore Management University

Instructor: Ken Yamada  
Office location: #5-71 School of Economics  
Office hours: TBA  
Course webpage: <https://smuvista.smu.edu.sg/>

**Course Overview:**

This course introduces theoretical principles, applied work, and empirical evidence in modern labor economics. Topics will include labor supply, welfare programs, labor demand, minimum wage, job amenities, education, training, wage inequality, migration, job turnover, discrimination, labor unions, incentive pay, and unemployment.

**Course Objectives:**

This course provides an opportunity to

- Understand the determination of wages and employment.
- Consider the role of public policies in the labor market.
- Discuss empirical studies.

**Class Sessions:**

Class sessions are of three-hour duration per week.

**Assessment:**

- |                      |     |  |
|----------------------|-----|--|
| a) Class activities: | 20% | (presentation: 12%, class participation: 8%) |
| b) Midterm exam:     | 30% |  |
| c) Final exam:       | 50% |  |

*Class Activities:* Each student will participate in a group presentation. Class contribution including the correction of any error in teaching materials can increase your grade.

*Midterm and Final Exams:* The exams will be closed-book.

**Textbooks:**

[Required] Borjas, J. George. (2009): Labor Economics, 5th edition, McGraw-Hill.

[Supplementary] Orley Ashenfelter, David Card, and Richard Layard. (eds.) (1987, 1999): Handbook of Labor Economics, Volumes 1, 2, 3A, 3B, and 3C, Elsevier.