

COURSE CONTENT

Course Coordinator	Chew Soon Beng
Course Code	HE2011 / HE3023
Course Title	Labour Economics and Labour Relations / Labour Economics
Pre-requisites	HE1001 Microeconomics I/ HE9091 Principles of Economics/ HE5091 Principles of Economics AB0901 Principles of Economics: A Singapore Perspective
No of AUs	3
Contact Hours	39 hours (2 hours lecture and 1 hour tutorial per week)

Course Aims

This course seeks to support you in understanding the inner workings of the labor market. The main part of the course focuses on the economics of the labor market and examines effectiveness of public policy in correcting market failures in labour markets. It covers the determination of labor market demand and supply, wage determination, wage differentials, human capital investment, migration and discrimination, as well as unemployment and labor policies. The course also aims to explain why workers join unions, trade union behavior, wage determination under the union, and the economic impact of unions.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of this course, you (as a student) would be able to:

1. Explain and analyse how the labour markets work
2. Examine impact of labour unions at the workplace and in society at large
3. Examine why training and retraining is the answer to offset the adverse effect of globalization
4. Examine how to have rising wages but still able to protect jobs

Course Content

1. Theories of Labour Supply
2. Work Effort and Public Policy;
3. Labour Demand
4. Labour Markets and Public Policy
5. Pay and Efficiency
6. Economic Impact of Labour Unions
7. Macro Focused Unions
8. Human Capital Investment
9. Discrimination in the Labour markets
10. Employment and Unemployment
11. Income Inequity in the Labour Markets
12. Purchasing Power of Wages

Assessment (includes both continuous and summative assessment)

1. Continuous Assessment	:	40%
2. Final Examination	:	60%
Total		<u>100%</u>

Reading and References

BASIC TEXT

GB : CSB, Chew Soon Beng (2017), *Labour Economics and Public Policy: Managing Labour markets for Competitiveness*, World Scientific Publishing Company.

BG, Borjas, George J (2013) *Labor Economics*, Seventh edition. New York: McGraw-Hill

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

MBM : MM, McConnell, Brue & Macpherson (2006) *Contemporary Labor Economics*, seventh edition. New York: McGraw-Hill.

JOURNAL ARTICLES ON SINGAPORE

Chua Sin-Chet, Lim Yun-Wen, Ter Teng-Teng and Chew Soon Beng (2014), "Efficiency Wage Theory: Evidence for Singapore Manufacturing Sector", *Singapore Economic Review*, June 2014; Vol 59, no 3, 145002-1 to 145002 -12

Chew Soon Beng (2014), "Influence of Trade Unions on Economic Strategy: The case of Singapore", *Singapore Economic Review*, September 2014.

Yao Shuntian and Chew Soon Beng (2014), "A Mathematical Model of a Macro-Focused Labour Union", *Singapore Economic Review*, September 2014.

Chew Soon Beng (2012), "Employment-based Social Protection in Singapore: Issues and Prospects", in *ASEAN Economic Bulletin*, Vol.29, no 3, pp 218-229.

Chew Soon Beng and Rosalind Chew (2012), "An Analysis of Income Inequality, Social Security, and Competitiveness: An Essay on Dr Goh Keng Swee's Contributions to Singapore's Economic Strategy" *Singapore Economic Review*, March 2012, pp. 1250002-1-17.

Chew, Rosalind and Chew Soon Beng, 2011, *From Adversarial Collective Bargaining To Strategic Collective Bargaining: The Case of a Small-Open Economy*, *Bulletin of Comparative Labour Relations*, pp 59-68.

Chew, Rosalind and Chew Soon Beng, 2010, *Union Social Responsibility: A Necessary Public Good in a Globalised World*, *International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations* (Netherlands), Vol. 26, No. 4, pp 435-446.

Groenewold, N and Tang SHK (2004), "The Asian Financial Crisis and the Natural Rate of Unemployment; Estimates from a structural var for the newly industrializing countries", *Pacific Economic Review*, 9: 1 (2004) pp. 45-64

Other journal references will be indicated when required.

Course Instructors

Instructor	Office Location	Email
Chew Soon Beng	SHHK 04-78	ASBCHEW@ntu.edu.sg

Planned Weekly Schedule

Teaching Week	Topic	Course LO	Readings/ Activities
1	Theories of Labour Supply	1	CSB, Chs 1,2 GB, chs 1,2 MBM, chs 1, 2
2	Work Effort and Public Policy;	1	CSB, Chs 3, 4 GB, ch2 MBM, ch 3
3	Labour Demand	2	CSB, Ch 5 GB, ch 2 MBM, ch 3
4	Labour Markets and Public Policy	2	CSB, Chs 5, 6, 7 GB, ch 3 MBM, ch 5
5	Pay and Efficiency	3	CSB, Ch 8 GB, chs 4, 5 MBM, chs 6, 8
6	Economic Impact of Labour Unions	3	CSB, Ch 9 GB, ch 10 MBM, chs 10,11
7	Macro-focused Unions	3	CSB, Ch 10
8	Human Capital Investment	3-4	CSB, Ch 11 GB, ch 11 MBM, ch 7
9	Discrimination	3-4	CSB, Ch 12 GB, ch 6 MBM, ch 4
10	Employment and Unemployment	3-4	CSB, Ch 13 GB, ch 9 MBM, ch 14
11	Income Inequity	4	CSB, Chs 12, 14 GB, ch 12 MBM, chs 17,18
12	Purchasing Power of Wages	4	CSB Chs 15, 16
13	Revision	1-4	