

Topics in Empirical Labor Economics:

The Role of Firms in the Labor Market

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Course Description

This course targets graduate students with a strong interest in empirical research. It focuses on the application of modern identification strategies to key questions around the role of firms in the labor market. We will discuss recent research papers which use state-of-the-art research designs to understand how firms shape workers' labor market outcomes, and how these outcomes interact with policy interventions and labor market institutions.

At the end of the course, students should have increased their ability to implement and critically assess identification approaches, gained insights into the research frontier on firms in the labor market, and ideally have developed a concrete idea for their own research project.

The course starts with a few lectures providing a recap on causal identification methods. In the following weeks, we will discuss research papers based on student presentations. Depending on the number of participants, we will conclude with discussions of selected chapters from the new edition of the *Handbook of Labor Economics*.

Examples of covered topics include: wage setting; human capital accumulation in firms; monopsony power; hiring and promotion decisions; labor market effects of firm taxation.

Grading The course grade will be based on student presentations (40%) and a written research proposal (60%).
