

ECON 8160: Seminar in Labor Economics

THIS COURSE EXAMINES:

- THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR LABOR
- WAGES AND COMPENSATING DIFFERENTIALS
- INVESTMENT IN HUMAN CAPITAL
- WORKER MOBILITY
- DISCRIMINATION
- UNIONS AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
- INEQUALITY AND UNEMPLOYMENT
- OTHER CURRENT TOPICS IN LABOR ECONOMICS

In the span of a mere 18 months (Jan 2008 – Jun 2009) the U.S. unemployment rate rose from 4.9% to 9.5%. The unemployment rate stood at 9.0% in October 2011. Why is the unemployment rate so high? Why do certain demographic groups have higher rates of unemployment than others? Why have real wages stagnated and what are the causes of widening wage disparities between certain groups? This course examines these questions and other current issues in labor markets.