14.661 Labor Economics I

Staff:
Instructors: Parag Pathak, E52-426, ppathak@mit.edu; Daron Acemoglu, E52-446, daron@mit.edu
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Logistics:
Two lectures per week on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30-12pm
Recitations: Fridays, from 10:30-12pm in E52-164 or on Zoom here
Pathak begins on 9/1/2020 and ends 10/15/2020
Acemoglu begins on 10/20/2020 and ends 12/8/2020

Description:
    This is a graduate course in labor economics, appropriate for PhD students in the Department of Economics and other students with permission of the instructor. Pathak and Acemoglu split the fall semester. In the spring, Professors David Autor and Simon Jäger teach Labor Economics II.
    The aim is to acquaint students with traditional topics and to encourage the development of independent research interests. The syllabus contains readings of two sorts. The first will be emphasized in lectures. Other readings may be discussed briefly, but are also listed as a guide to the literature.
    Students who are interested in pursuing research in labor economics are *strongly* encouraged to the attend the weekly Labor Economics student workshop, which meets on Tuesdays from 12:00-1:00pm, the joint MIT Labor/Public Finance seminar in the Fall on Mondays from 4-5:30pm, and the Econ-Sloan Applied Microeconomics seminar which meets in the Spring.
    A canvas website has readings, assignments, and recitation material.

Course Materials:
Working labor economists should have easy access to the following resources:

- Ashenfelter, Orley and David Card (2010): Handbook of Labor Economics, Volumes 4A and 4B.

- Angrist, Joshua and Jorn-Steffen Pischke (2009): Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricist's Companion, Princeton University Press.

- Deaton, Angus and John Muelbauer (1980): Economics and Consumer Behavior, Cambridge University Press.

- Borjas, George (2010): Labor Economics, 5th Edition, McGraw Hill-Irwin.

Grading and Requirements:
    Your grade in this course depends on three parts: final exam in December covering material from both quarters (50%), 5-6 problem sets (25%), and an empirical project (25%) involving replication and extension of published work.