

Econ 341: Economics of Education
Northwestern University, 2022 Spring

- Instructor: Scott Ogawa; sogawa@northwestern.edu (please use email and *not* Canvas Inbox)
- Lecture officially Tue/Thu 9:30 - 10:50 am, though typically class will begin at 9:45 am¹ (i.e. usually 65 minute in-person lectures), with short additional recordings (typically made Fridays in Zoom office hours).
- Required Textbook: *Economics of Education*, Lovenheim and Turner (only one edition exists)

Expectations:

- *Tests*: Three unit tests during quarter, with the third test also being cumulative in nature (though worth the same as the other two tests)
- *Participation and attendance*: You will generally be expected to attend, though with a provision to miss a few classes as needed, though you must email in advance.²
- *Weekly Problem Sets*: Usually submitted in groups, sometimes just one problem.
- Optional *Final Paper* or *Presentation*: Potentially boost grade by up to 1/3 (further details will be provided during the quarter).

Tests: If you need to miss a test, contact the professor (and there may be a slight negative impact on your grade).

- Test 1: Thursday, April 21 (week 4)
- Test 2: Thursday, May 12 (week 7)
- Test 3: Friday, May 27 (section time, thus canceling Jun 31 class)

Schedule and topics (and links to readings)

- *Part I (Weeks 1 - 4)*: [Returns to Schooling](#)
- *Part II (Weeks 5 - 8)*: [School Quality](#)
- *Part III (end of quarter, topics subject to change)*: [School Finance](#) and/or other facts about education and/or topics by request.

¹ Update Feb 2

² Deleted week 4: “Also, you may be required to join one or two Friday Zoom office hours that take place during scheduled section time.”

Participation via attendance: In general you are expected to attend and participate. You can miss up to two classes (though never in the same week); in fact, I would expect you to miss a few as stuff comes up. If you need to miss more than that, you should let me know in advance what is going on.

Problem Sets: There will be regular, short problem sets (often a single problem to submit) due each Monday. These will often require you to work with data in some way. These problem sets will often be done in *groups* (though this is subject to change).

Optional Paper or Presentation: At the end of the quarter you can submit a 3-page policy paper or prepare a presentation. Details will be provided during the quarter, though note that the expectations will be extremely high: The paper should present an original and interesting policy idea that you care about, while the presentation should be informative and engaging for your classmates.

Grade Calculation: If you attend most classes and stay engaged, you will likely earn a B- or higher, assuming you do reasonably well on tests and problem sets. If you are an active and engaged participant, you will likely earn a B or higher. Earning a B+ or A- can be achieved by doing well on all tests and problem sets. Finally, to earn a straight A you must also complete a final project.

[Official university policies](#) apply in this class.