

Econ 341: Economics of Education
Northwestern University, 2024 Spring, Tech L361

- Instructor: Scott Ogawa; sogawa@gmail.com or northwestern.edu (use email, *not* Canvas Inbox)
TA: Tessa Bonomo; ThereseBonomo2027@u.northwestern.edu
- Office: Kellogg 3373. See Canvas for office hours, which will be updated during the quarter based on student needs.
- Lecture Mon/Wed 12:30 - 1:50 pm, section Friday 12:30 pm, also in Tech L361
- Required Textbook: *Economics of Education*, Lovenheim and Turner (only one edition exists)
Recommended: *Mastering Metrics*, Angrist and Pischke

Expectations:

- *Tests*: Three unit tests during quarter, with the third test also being cumulative in nature (though worth only a bit more than the other two tests)
- *Participation and attendance*: You will generally be expected to attend, though with the expectation that everybody needs to miss a few classes..
- *Weekly Problem Sets*: Usually submitted in groups, usually 2-3 questions.

Exams

There are three equally weighted exams. If you need to miss one in advance, speak with the professor as soon as possible. Taking exams after the assigned dates may have slight negative impact on your grade though not in a way that prevents you from doing well in the course (details discussed in class).

- Test 1: Wednesday, April 17 (week 4)
- Test 2: Wednesday, May 8 (week 7)
- Test 3: Friday, May 24 (week 9)

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.

Participation via attendance

In general you are expected to attend and participate. While we will not usually take attendance per se, you should still email in advance if you plan to miss. Also, I may give very short reading quizzes at the start of class (I will always give advanced warning).

Section

Sections will be optional, though they will be designed to help you complete the upcoming assignments and exams. Any aspect of the problem set that requires data analysis will be supported with ample help and examples during section.

Extremely Optional Paper

At the end of the quarter you can submit a 3-page policy paper. Details will be provided during the quarter, though this is only intended for students who want to present an original idea or do a bit of original research. If you find yourself asking “what should I do?” then my most likely answer will be “don’t worry about it!”

Grades

Your grade will be based on exams (80%), problem sets (12%), and class participation (including quick quizzes; 8%). There is also the optional final paper. How this might affect your grade (or not) will be discussed in class.

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