

**Economics 341: Economics of Education
Northwestern University, 2020 Winter**

Instructor: Scott Ogawa; sogawa@northwestern.edu (please use email and not Canvas Inbox)
Office: Kellogg KGH 3481. See Calendar link on Canvas for office hours.
TA: Alex Doser, alexanderdoser2023@u.northwestern.edu
(Office hours: Wed., 4:00-5:00 p.m.; Thurs., 10:00-11:00 a.m., KGH 3496)
Place/Time: FSL 1421; Mon/Wed, 9:30 - 3:20 am; Sections Friday 10:00 - 10:50 am.
Textbook: *Economics of Education*, Lovenheim and Turner.

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 outside of the assigned dates may negatively impact your grade though not in a way that prevents you from passing the course.

Grades

Your grade will be based on exams (55%), problem sets (30%), and class participation (15%). There is also an optional final 3-page policy paper on a education policy topic of your choice, due the last day of class. How this might increase your grade (or not) will be discussed in class.

Problem Sets (and Problemsitos)

There will be three problem sets, the first two due the week prior to each exam. These will require you to work with data in some way. These problem sets will be done in *groups of two to three*, and some aspect will be tested on the subsequent exam. Also, there will be short individual “problemsitos” due at the start of particular classes; these will be assigned one class in advance.

Participation (including reading quizzes)

As a baseline expectation, you should try to come to lecture even if I will not officially be taking attendance. Assuming you do okay on reading quizzes, if you remain engaged during lecture then participation will not affect your grade either up your down. For participation to bump your grade up, you need to demonstrate consistent engagement with the reading, as demonstrated by thoughtful comments *about the reading* when called in class. On the flip side, if you are chronically absent, tardy, or disruptive then your grade may be lowered. A few times during the quarter there will be short *reading quizzes at the start of class*. These will be announced in advance and you can drop your lowest score, though you do need to show up on time.

Computers and Phones

Computer users (or people who want to use phones to take photographs) *must sit in a designated part of the first row*. I reserve the right to restrict use further. Mostly, I just ask that students use technology responsibly and professionally.

Office Hours

Office hours (for TA and myself) will be on the class calendar (linked on Canvas). I am also happy to meet by appointment, especially if you want to discuss ideas for the final policy paper.

Section

Sections will be optional, though they will be designed to help you complete the upcoming assignments and exams.

Schedule:

Part I (Weeks 1 - 3): [Returns to Schooling \(link to description and readings\)](#)

Problem Set 1: Due Thursday, Jan 23 at 5:00 pm

Exam 1: Wednesday, Jan 29 (during week 4)

Part II (Weeks 4 - 6): [School Quality](#)

Problem Set 2: Due Thursday, Feb 20 at 5:00 pm

Exam 2: Wednesday, Feb 26 (during **week 8*)**

**Earlier version of syllabus distributed in class mistakenly had this listed as week 7*

Part III (Weeks 7 - 9): [School Finance](#)

Problem Set 3: Due Monday, Mar 9 at 5:00 pm.

Exam 3: Friday, Mar 20 at 9:00 am (during finals week);

Optional early Exam 3 on Friday, Mar 13