

Economics 147: Economics of Education
UCSD Summer Session I 2013
TuTh 8a-10:50a
Humanities and Social Sciences Building HSS 1315

Brief Course Description

This course introduces questions and recent empirical research in the economics of education. Topics we will study include the individual decision to invest in education, the effect of education on economic and social outcomes, the production of education, the markets for schools and teachers, and public policies related to education.

Course Website

I will post announcements, brief notes, practice problem sets (not collected), reading list, and grades on our course website at Ted. <http://ted.ucsd.edu>

Required Readings

There is no comprehensive textbook currently available for this course. Journal articles, selected chapters from textbooks, and occasional news articles will supplement our lectures. Readings will be available on reserve or via links on the readings list. Some links will only be accessible from a computer connected to the campus network.

Office Hours/Contact Information

	<u>day and time</u>	<u>location</u>
Instructor: Y. Emily Tang, Ph.D. yetang@ucsd.edu	Tu 2-4p	Econ Annex
TA: Boris Wong bcw005@ucsd.edu	W 2-4p	Sequoyah 232

Important Dates

Midterm Exam:	Thursday 7/18	in class (first 80 minutes of class)
Final:	Saturday 8/3	8-11a

Grades

Your grade will be determined based on your performance on one midterm exam and one cumulative final exam, weighted as follows: Midterm: 40%, Final Exam: 60%

The weighted total points earned may be curved in the assignment of letter grades. The following apply as the *minimum* of the letter grade you can expect to earn based on the total weighted % of points you earn in the course:

98-100%= A+, 93-97=A, 90-92=A-
88-89=B+, 83-87=B, 80-82=B-
78-79=C+, 73-77=C, 70-72=C-
50-69=D, <50% = F

Policies

Exam dates are not negotiable. If you miss a midterm because of documented illness or sports, the weight of the missed midterm will be added to the weight of the final exam. Unexcused missed exams will receive scores of 0. There are no acceptable excuses for missing the final-- if you miss the final, you will receive a failing grade for the course. Any student caught cheating will receive a failing grade for the course. In addition to this academic sanction, the Council of Deans of Student Affairs will impose a disciplinary penalty.

Econ 147: Economics of Education Outline

Preliminary and Subject to Change

I. Introduction and Overview

- The Role of Government in Education
- Education Policy and Economic Growth
- Trends in Education in the US
- Group Differences in Educational Outcomes

II. Empirical Methods Used in Studying the Economics of Education

- Correlation vs. Causality
- Difference-in-Difference Models
- Natural Experiments

III. Investing in Education

- Human Capital Model
- Signaling Model
- Empirical Estimates of the Private Return to Education
- Empirical Estimates of Education Externalities

IV: Producing Elementary and Secondary Education in the US: Background and Reform

- The Structure of K-12 Education in the US
- School Finance
- The Market for Teachers
- School Accountability
- School Choice

V: Higher Education in the US

- Student Aid and Student Debt
- Community Colleges
- For-Profit Colleges