

Labor Markets: A Macroeconomic Perspective

Syllabus (Winter 2023/24)

The existence of unemployment remains an eminent puzzle for economists. From the macroeconomic perspective, one needs to argue why wages do not clear markets. Why do job openings coexist with unemployment? What explains large up- and downswings of unemployment over the business cycle? Which policies stabilize unemployment? On the other hand, for those in employment, how do wages evolve over the life cycle and what role does human capital play? Can occupational mobility explain earnings inequality? How do individual skills and the tasks required by an occupation affect wages? This seminar, inter alia, tackles these questions.

The seminar topics will be assigned on Saturday, November 11, 2023 from 10:30–11:15 am (via Zoom). You find a list with some seminar topics suggestions further below. If you would like to work on an other recent macro-labor topic, feel free to suggest the topic to me.

Over the course of the semester, you will complete your assigned seminar paper. In early 2024, you will present your (preliminary) findings. The deadline for the seminar paper is approximately 4 weeks after the presentation. We will set these dates together on November 11. We will decide at a later date whether the presentations of the seminar papers will take place online or at FAU. Currently, I am assuming that you will be presenting the seminar papers in person.

There is no need to register in advance but you should sign up in StudOn. Slides and all other information —e.g., the login information for the Zoom meeting— will be uploaded there.

If you have any questions about the seminar, please do not hesitate to email me (Heiko Stüber): Heiko.Stueber@fau.de.

Requirements

- Seminar paper (15 ± 1 pages)
- Presentation of the seminar paper (30 minutes)

Further information

Language:	English
Prerequisites:	Macroeconomics 1 and sound knowledge of econometric methods.
Zoom meeting:	Saturday, November 11, 2023, 10:30–11:15.
Presentation:	Presentation of the seminar papers at the beginning of 2024, date to be set in lecture.
Seminar paper:	The seminar paper is limited to 15 pages (± 10%, excluding graphs, tables, and the list of references). Students should discuss and summarize recent contributions by independently investigating related literature and applying economic theory. To clarify further questions on the topic and to discuss a rough outline of the paper, please arrange an early meeting with me. I also expect you to contact me for a second meeting before the presentation of the seminar paper. The deadline for the seminar paper is approximately 4 weeks after the presentation. Both dates will be set on November 11.
Grading procedure:	Seminar paper 90% and presentation of seminar paper 10%.
StudOn link:	https://www.studon.fau.de/crs5390501.html

Seminar topics (first suggestions)

1. The actuality of the Phillips Curve: Germany compared with the EU
2. Causes and costs of inflation
3. Inequality and economic growth
4. New inflation pressures
5. (Revisiting) Money Illusion
6. The establishment-level behavior of vacancies and hiring
7. Pitfalls in estimating wage cyclicality