

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT****Code:** 33575**Name:** Labour economics**Cycle:** Undergraduate Studies**ECTS Credits:** 6**Academic year:** 2026-27**STUDY (S)**

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1309 - Degree in Labour Relations and Human Resources	Facultat de Ciències Socials	2	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1309 - Degree in Labour Relations and Human Resources	Economics of work	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

CANO CANO ERNEST

PITXER CAMPOS JOSEP VICENT

SUMMARY

Labour Economics is a compulsory 6-ECTS course taught in the second year of the Bachelor's Degree in Labour Relations and Human Resources. Its aim is to provide students with the foundations for understanding the functioning and dynamics of the labour market from an economic perspective. It is closely linked to Applied Economics, a first-year core course.

In this course, theoretical analysis in Labour Economics is combined with the study of the specific characteristics of the Spanish labour market. The course begins by examining the main trends in labour force participation, employment, and unemployment in the Spanish labour market over recent decades, with particular attention to gender differences. Next, the determinants of labour supply and labour demand are analysed from the perspective of Labour Economics. This provides the basis for understanding the different economic and institutional structures of labour markets, as well as labour market segmentation, supported by empirical evidence from Spain. The course then examines the various causes of unemployment from microeconomic, macroeconomic, and structural perspectives, and discusses employment policies according to the different diagnoses of unemployment. Finally, the course analyses developments in the Spanish labour market over the past thirty years, relating them to the changes in the productive structure of the Spanish economy and the evolution of economic and labour policies, from



European integration to the present day.

The course adopts both a theoretical and an applied approach. It provides students with the theoretical economic foundations necessary to analyse the most significant labour market phenomena while applying these concepts to real-world contexts, particularly the Spanish labour market.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Students are strongly recommended to have previously completed and passed the core course Applied Economics.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1309 - Degree in Labour Relations and Human Resources

Analyse, synthesise and reason critically.

Analyse and assess decisions made by agents involved in labour relations.

Analyse and assess the factors that determine inequalities in the world of work.

Be familiar with the sources of information and socio-economic indicators of the labour market.

Collaborate effectively in work teams, assuming responsibilities and leadership roles and contributing to collective improvement and development.

Contribute to the design, development and implementation of solutions that respond to social demands, taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals as a reference.

Demonstrate critical and self-critical thinking in the field of the degree programme, considering aspects such as professional ethics, moral values and the social implications of the different activities carried out.

Design and develop basic social and labour research projects.

Develop an interrelated vision of the different academic disciplines that analyse the field of work.

Develop organisational and planning actions.

Know and analyse the principles, areas and procedures of action of socio-labour political institutions.

Know and apply the principles of the professional code of ethics.



Know and understand, within the field of the degree programme, gender inequalities in society; integrate different needs and preferences based on sex and gender into the design of solutions and problem solving.

Know and understand the basic interrelations between economic, social, political and cultural processes and their influence on individual and collective behaviours.

Know and understand the economic framework of labour relations and the dynamics of labour markets.

Know and understand the importance of the institutional framework in the economic and labour market dynamics.

Know and understand the social processes structuring labour and production relations.

Know how to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, adapting to the characteristics of the situation and the audience.

Know the economic processes affecting employment and factors determining inequalities in the labour market.

Know the factors that determine inequalities in the world of work.

Know the main economic approaches to the functioning of the labour market and the economic policy proposals aimed at solving labour problems.

Learn independently and develop initiative and entrepreneurial spirit.

Locate, identify, analyse and interpret socio-economic data and indicators relating to the labour market.

Manage information, draft and formalise reports and writings.

Prepare, implement and evaluate territorial strategies for socio-economic promotion and sustainable development.

Respect and promote fundamental rights, equality between men and women, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, democratic values and sustainability.

Select and manage social and labour information and documentation.

Solve problems, apply knowledge to practice and develop motivation for quality.

Use information and communication technologies.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS



1. Main Trends in the Spanish Labour Market

- Developments in labour force participation, employment and unemployment
- Sectoral and occupational transformation in the Spanish labour market

2. Determinants of Labour Market Structure and Labour Market Segmentation

- Structural determinants of labour demand
- Structural determinants of labour supply
- Labour market segmentation: concept and dynamics
- Precarious employment in the Spanish labour market

3. Economic Analysis of Unemployment and Employment Policies

- The conventional microeconomic approach to unemployment: causes and labour market policies
- The macroeconomic approach to unemployment: causes and macroeconomic policies
- Structural approaches to unemployment: causes and structural policies
- Current diagnoses, proposals, and policies to address unemployment in Spain

4. Labour Market Dynamics, Productive Structure, and Economic and Employment Policies in Spain

- Transformations in the productive model of the Spanish economy: the impact of European integration, the growth model during the 1994–2007 period, the 2008 financial crisis, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current situation
- Economic policy strategy in Spain: developments in macroeconomic policy, institutional constraints, labour market reforms, and structural policies

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES



Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	60,00
Total hours	60,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	10,00
Independent study and work	37,50
Preparation of lessons	0,00
Preparation for assessment activities	42,50
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The teaching methodology is organised around three main types of learning activities:

1. Lectures and practical sessions with the teaching staff.
2. Independent study and completion of coursework by students.
3. Individual or small-group tutorials.

Teaching activities are structured around two main components:

a) Lectures

Lectures introduce the fundamental concepts and core content of the course. To facilitate student participation and learning, the Aula Virtual will be used to provide outlines and supporting materials.

b) Practical Sessions

Practical activities may include different types of tasks. These include the collective analysis and discussion of materials distributed in advance, as well as activities prepared by the teaching staff, which students may be required to complete either in writing before class or during the practical sessions themselves.

Students are encouraged to adopt an active learning approach based on regular reading of the recommended bibliography, attendance and participation in class, completion of practical activities, and effective use of tutorial sessions. A core bibliography will be provided to support the preparation of each topic, together with supplementary readings covering specific issues. The use of these references will be specified throughout the course in the outlines for each topic.



EVALUATION

Assessment consists of a written examination, worth 75% of the final mark, and the assessment through practical activities, worth 25% of the final mark.

At the end of the semester, on the official examination date established by the Faculty of Social Sciences, students will sit a written examination covering the entire course syllabus.

Assessment of practical activities will take into account the following:

- Individual and group activities completed during practical sessions, some of which may be submitted in writing or completed during class.
- Students' active participation in practical activities, together with the skills and attitudes demonstrated throughout these activities.

Correct spelling and written expression will be considered as part of the assessment criteria for both examinations and written assignments.

To pass the course, students must obtain at least 4 out of 10 in the written examination and a weighted average of at least 5 out of 10, combining the written examination (75%) and the practical assessment (25%).

In both the first and second examination periods, students may resit the practical assessment by taking a practical examination. However, this resit examination allows students to obtain a maximum of 75% of the highest possible mark for the assessment component.

Students who do not pass the course in the first examination period must retake the written examination in the second examination period. The mark previously obtained for the practical assessment will be retained, although students who failed this component may resit it under the same conditions as in the first examination period.

Students who passed the practical assessment in the previous academic year may request that the teaching staff recognise their assessment mark for the current academic year with a score of 5 out of 10.

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