

## **Syllabus**

### ***Time and place***

The lecture takes place in 4-hour blocks on the following dates:  
Monday, 14:15-17:35, WWZ S13, 25.2./18.3./01.04./8.4./15.4./20.5.2019  
(including a 20 min lunch break 15:45-16:05)

### ***Learning objectives***

The objective of the course is to enable students to make informed decisions about policy proposals that affect labor market institutions. To reach this goal, students obtain a profound understanding of the effects of differently designed labor market institutions on the labor market, both from a theoretical perspective and the empirical literature.

### ***Content***

The course does not cover all relevant labor market institutions but focuses on the issues most important on the current policy agenda: the sustainability of social insurance systems (unemployment, disability and pension insurance, social assistance), ageing populations and the demographic change (retirement policies), minimum wages, and migration policies.

### ***Learning approach***

We start by discussing the theoretical effects of a given institution on the labor market. Afterwards we discuss the empirical literature that analyzes how the institution affects the labor market in reality. We conclude each topic by summarizing lessons learned for possible policy improvements that reduce undesired effects on the labor market.

### ***Examination (3 credit points)***

Grading will be based on an individual take-home assignment. The content of the assignment is an in-depth discussion and evaluation of a policy proposal regarding one of the institutions discussed in class. Students will discuss the pros and cons in terms of possible effects of the proposal on the labor market both from a theoretical perspective and based on the existing empirical literature. Following this discussion, students will derive and substantiate a recommendation whether to adopt or reject the policy proposal.

### ***Readings***

A good background is provided by Boeri, Tito and Jan van Ours (2013): "The Economics of Imperfect Labor Markets", 2nd ed., Princeton: Princeton University Press. The relevant chapters are indicated in the schedule below. The papers that contain relevant empirical applications will be posted on ADAM.

**Schedule**

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Boeri and Van Ours (2013)</b>
25.02.	Introduction	Chapter 1
18.03.	Unemployment insurance	Chapter 11
01.04.	Labor market exit and retirement policies	Chapter 6
08.04.	Means-tested benefits	Chapter 13
15.04.	Minimum wages	Chapter 2
20.05.	Migration policies	Chapter 9

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