

**Economics 147: Economics of Education**  
**UCSD Fall 2012**  
**MWF 3-3:50p**  
**Solis Hall 104**

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 Ted when possible.

Office Hours/Contact Information

Instructor: Yuan Emily Tang, Ph.D.	<a href="mailto:yetang@ucsd.edu">yetang@ucsd.edu</a>	W 10a-12p	Econ Annex
TAs: Onyi Lam	<a href="mailto:onlam@ucsd.edu">onlam@ucsd.edu</a>	F 9-11a	Sequoiah 208
Ling Shao	<a href="mailto:lishao@ucsd.edu">lishao@ucsd.edu</a>	Th 12-2p	Sequoiah 205
Michael Madowitz (grader only)	<a href="mailto:mmadowit@ucsd.edu">mmadowit@ucsd.edu</a>	by appointment only	

Evaluation

There will be three exams: two midterms and one final exam. Each midterm will be worth 25% of your grade and the final will be worth 50% of your grade. Midterms will cover incremental material, while the final exam will be cumulative. The weighted total points in the course may be curved in the assignment of letter grades, but the typical U.S. percentage cutoffs (90-100% A- to A+, 80-89%=B- to B+, 70-79%=C- to C+, 60-69%=D, 0-59%=F) will apply as the minimum letter grade you can expect to earn.

Midterm 1:	Friday	10/19/12	in class
Midterm 2:	Friday	11/16/12	in class
Final Exam:	Friday	12/14/12	3-6p

Policies

Exam dates are not negotiable. If you miss a midterm because of documented illness or other university approved reason, then the remaining midterm will count for 33% of your grade and the final exam will count for 67%. If you miss a midterm for any other reason, you will receive a score of zero on that midterm. There are no acceptable reasons for missing the final-- if you miss the final, you will receive a failing grade for the course. Exams are closed-book and closed-notes. If you believe that an exam has not been properly graded, you must discuss this with the TA whom graded the relevant part of the exam within two weeks of when exams were first returned to class. A random subset of graded exams will be photocopied, and altering an exam after we have handed them back will be considered academic misconduct. Any student found guilty of academic misconduct will earn 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

Additional topics may include Early Childhood Education, Class Size, Peer Effects, Race to the Top Funding, and Education in an International Context.