
University of Alberta – Department of Economics – Winter 2026
ECON 431-531 – Labor Economics / Labour Economics I – Marchand

ALL ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments will occur in various forms and at various times throughout the semester. These may directly relate to questions, problems, or the data explorer from the textbook. They may also relate to articles from academic journals or NEP-LMA working papers. For graduate students, assignment tasks may involve steps toward your own research and presenting in front of the class on a related topic during a particular time and place.

I purposefully have not set the assignments ahead of time, as I would like to arrive at them more organically. That said, because myself and a teaching assistant would like to grade assignments together, a ten percent per day late penalty will be used when needed.

Assignment 1

(given on Wednesday, January 7th, 2026)

This week's release of NEP-LMA for Monday, January 5th, included twenty-five papers. Look through the twenty-five titles to identify a few topics of interest. From there, read at least the abstracts to determine one particular paper of interest. Then, read that paper. On roughly one to two pages, write by hand your interest in it and answer what follows.

For undergraduates, beyond your interest, was there anything you did not understand? Describe what that was and how you may use or did use your textbook to understand it.

For graduates, beyond your interest, how might you replicate the same exact analysis? Describe how to get the data, code up the estimates, and produce a main figure or a table.

Feel free to instead choose a paper from next week's release of NEP-LMA, but note that this January 12th issue will not be released until Sunday night, Jan. 11th, at the earliest.

(due by Wednesday, January 14th, 2026)