This course will focus on the evaluation of a range of public policies that affect human capital formation, broadly defined. The course will emphasize the evaluation of these policies, using a range of empirical techniques, and will highlight areas of expertise of the two instructors.

The grade will be based on continued progress towards the paper assignment, class participation, and one written critical discussion of one of the papers on the reading list below. In this critical discussion, students should: (a) summarize the article, including its motivation, theoretical framework, critical assumptions, econometric methods used and main results; (b) critically assess the contribution of the paper; including the strengths and weaknesses of the paper’s approach, appropriateness of theory, methods and data used, and whether the paper addresses an important issue and assessment of how convincing are the findings of the paper. This assessment should be between 5-10 pages in length (double-spaced). The schedule for progress on the paper assignment is as follows:

April 9: Submission and class presentation of 5-10 page progress report.

June 4: Submission and class presentation of draft paper (20-25 pages)

July 9: Submission of final draft of paper (30+ pages)

July 10-14: Presentation and oral defense of research.

Additional presentations may be scheduled as necessary.

In addition to the above course requirements, all students are urged to regularly attend the "Labor and Population" Workshop which is being jointly sponsored by UCLA and RAND. Many eminent people will be giving talks about
their work in progress. Regular attendance is the best way to find out what’s hot and what’s not, and to see how successful economists approach empirical problems. Please contact the instructors if you need a ride to a seminar held at RAND.

Readings that are not available electronically already (i.e. on JSTOR, the NBER web site, or the instructor’s own web sites) will be made available on the course web site for downloading. The URL for the course website is: www.econ.ucla.edu/hotz/ec262a.
April 2: Introduction

The Role of Government


The Welfare System


**Empirical Issues**


April 3: Special Lecture by Prof. David Cutler "Public Policy for Health Care"

(NOTE: This is a Tues. The lecture will be held from 9:30-11 in a room 9383)

April 9: Presentation of Preliminary Research Papers

April 11 and 16: Estimating the Causal Effects to Social Programs with Application to Training programs


April 18: Discrimination and Human Capital Formation


April 23: Special Lecture by Nicole Fortin "Wage Inequality and Labor Market Institutions"

April 25 and 30: Recent Developments in the Effects of Social and Welfare Programs on Behavior

*The Earned Income Tax Credit*

Blundell, Richard, Alan Duncan, Julian McCrae, and Costas Meghir, "The Labour Market Impact of the Working Families Tax Credit," JCPR


The Effects of Welfare Programs on Trends in Labor Force Participation


Term Limits


**Modeling Effects of Multiple Program Participation**


**The Effects of Welfare-to-Work Programs**


**May 2: Unemployment Insurance**


May 7: Teenage and Out-of-Wedlock Childbearing


May 9: Consequences of Teen and Out-of-Wedlock Births


Hotz, V. Joseph, Susan McElroy, and Seth Sanders. "The Costs and Consequences of Teenage Childbearing for the Mothers and the


May 11: Effects of Social Policies on Family Structure, Fertility, and Abortion


May 16, 21 23: Public Policy and the Health Sector


*Health and Inequality*


**Public Health Insurance**


Managed Care/Effects of Competition


Induced Demand


Policies for Public Health


May 28: Memorial Day

May 30: Public Housing Policy


June 4: Second presentation of research papers
June 6: Child Care


June 11: Early Intervention Programs


