

Middle East Technical University  
Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences  
Department of Economics

## **ECON 498**

# **LABOUR MARKET ECONOMICS**

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### **Course Objective:**

The objective of the course is to present a general introduction to industrial relations issues, in a comparative perspective and with specific emphasis on Turkey, to serve as a basis for further studies.

### **Course Content:**

Structure of the labour force in the developed countries, in the developing countries and in Turkey; forms and levels of employment, problems with respect to unemployment; child labour; development of trade unions and employers' associations in general and in Turkey; international trade union organisations; International Labour Organisation; current labour legislation in Turkey; international standards on industrial relations (ILO Conventions and EU legislation); wages and collective labour agreements in Turkey; social security in general and in Turkey; new forms of employment relations (flexibility, contract labour, etc.); privatisation and its impact on industrial relations; social dialogue in general and in Turkey.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

The student is expected, first of all, to understand the current events in industrial relations in general and in Turkey. This will contribute to his/her capacities as a future professional and as an intellectual.

The second expectation of the course concerns the working lives of the students after graduation. Since the great majority of the students will be employed as wage- and salary-earners, providing them with the basics of industrial relations facilitates their orientation to work and decreases some of the problems they will most probably encounter.

### **Main Teaching Methods:**

The course is based on lectures, complemented with the contributions of eminent personalities in this field. In general, the presidents of the confederations of trade unions of workers and of public servants are either invited to attend meetings at the university or students visit them at their headquarters, to hear from and to discuss with them basic problems and possible solutions on basic issues. The students are encouraged to participate in discussions and to learn and evaluate confronting views on each and every topic. Although the students are allowed to choose any relevant topic for term-paper, they are encouraged an oral-history project with their grandparents about their working lives, including the economic and social transformation the Turkish society has gone through.

Attendance and participation in the discussions are taken into consideration for the final term grade. No make-up exams are given, except in cases of serious illness which should be duly documented by the medical authorities.

### **Course Assessment:**

Midterm Exam	30 percent
Attendance	10 percent
Term Paper	20 percent
Final Exam	40 percent

### **Course Textbook and Course Reference Material:**

Koç, Y., **Türkiye İşçi Sınıfı Tarihi, Osmanlı'dan 2010'a**, Epos Yay., Ankara, 2010, s.305-478.

Koç, Y., **Yanlış-Doğru Cetveli, İşçi Sınıfı Tarihi Yazımında İnatçı Hatalar**, Epos Yay., Ankara, 2010, s.198-215.

Parts of the following texts will be used as source material:

ILO (2011), **Key Indicators of the Labour Market**

DİE (2011), **Hanehalkı İşgücü Anketleri**.

OECD, **Employment Outlook**.

MESS (2003), **Labour Act of Turkey (Act No.4857)**

Brett, B. (1994), **International Labour in the 21st Century**.

Hansenne, M. (1993), **Social Insurance and Social Protection**.

Examples of collective labour agreements concluded in Turkey.