

**Labor Economics – Econ 3100 - 001**

Syllabus\*, Fall 2016

Credits-3

Fulfills the **QI (Quantitative Intensive)** requirement.

Kartik Verma

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**Lecture Hours:** Tuesday/Thursday, 2 pm – 3:20 pm, Beh S 116.

**Office Hours\*:** By Appointment. Venue - TBA.

**Course Description:** Labor-market economics, wage theory, labor mobility, human-resource development, unionism, discrimination, collective bargaining, employment, and public policy.

The objective of the course is to convey an understanding of the roles and functions of the labor market. We study the foundations of the mainstream labor market model mainly through graph theory. We then look at some of the policy implications associated with labor market theory. Finally, we study some of the macroeconomic issues associated with the labor market.

**Course Objectives:** At the end of the course, students are expected to understand the theoretical underpinnings of labor markets in modern economies. They are also expected to understand the workings of the various labor market institutions that will be discussed and also expected to draw some policy conclusions based on their understanding of the working of the labor market.

**Prerequisite:** There are no listed prerequisites but a basic knowledge of graph theory is recommended. Some knowledge of microeconomics (at the principles level) will be very helpful.

**Teaching Methods:** Regular Lectures and Discussions.

**Optional Text:**

1. *Real World Labor*, 2nd edition edited by Immanuel Ness, Amy Offner, and Chris Sturr. Dollars and Sense publication.

2. *Labor and the Global Economy*, by Alejandro Reuss. Dollars & Sense publication.

**Required Text:**

*Contemporary Labor Economics*, 10th edition by Campbell R. McConnell, Stanley L. Brue, David A. Macpherson.

**Chapters Covered:** 1-6, 8-11, 13-14, 18.

**Canvas:** Lecture slides will be posted on Canvas. Other reading material will also be uploaded on Canvas.

**Canvas email:** All major announcements will be made through Canvas email. All students are expected to read these announcements regularly. The students may get in touch with me either via Canvas email or at kartik.verma@utah.edu.

\*Note: This syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification.

### Assignments, Grading and Exam Dates:

Assignments (4 in total - **Best 3** count towards the final grade): **50% of the grade.**

Assignments may be submitted during class hours or **electronically** on Canvas email or at [kartik.verma@utah.edu](mailto:kartik.verma@utah.edu).

**Electronic submission** means sending assignments as attachments.

#### Assignment Schedule (tentative):

|                         | Assignment Handed Out | Assignment Due |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Assignment 1            | August 30             | September 13   |
| Assignment 2            | September 15          | September 29   |
| Assignment 3            | October 20            | November 10    |
| Assignment 4<br>(Essay) | October 27            | December 8     |

**Midterm exam:** Thursday, October 6th, 2016. 2 pm – 3:20 pm.

**Final exam:** Thursday, December 15th, 2016. 1 pm – 3 pm.

The two exams will be worth **50% of the grade** (25 % each).

Both the midterm and the final exam are “closed notes and in-class”.

The final exam will be non-cumulative.

The exams will include objective-type questions, short-answer questions as well as longer essay-type questions.

#### Grading Scale:

$A \geq 93, 88 \leq A- < 93,$

$83 \leq B+ < 88, 78 \leq B < 83, 73 \leq B- < 78,$

$68 \leq C+ < 73, 63 \leq C < 68, 58 \leq C- < 63,$

$52 \leq D+ < 58, 46 \leq D < 52, 40 \leq D- < 46,$

$E < 40.$

**Course Schedule:**

|                            | <b>Topic</b>             |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Week 1                     | Chapter 1, 2             |
| Week 2                     | Chapter 2, 3             |
| Week 3                     | Chapter 3, 5             |
| Week 4                     | Chapter 5                |
| Week 5                     | Chapter 4                |
| Week 6                     | Chapter 6                |
|                            |                          |
| October 4th, 2016          | Review for Midterm exam  |
| <b>October 6th, 2016</b>   | <b>Midterm Exam</b>      |
|                            |                          |
| Week 8                     | Chapter 8, 9             |
| Week 9                     | Chapter 9, 10            |
| Week 10                    | Chapter 10, 11           |
| Week 11                    | Chapter 11               |
| Week 12                    | Chapter 18               |
| Week 13                    | Chapter 13               |
| Week 14                    | Chapter 14               |
| Week 15                    |                          |
|                            |                          |
| December 8th, 2016         | Review for Final Exam    |
| <b>December 15th, 2016</b> | <b>Final Examination</b> |

**Student Code of Conduct:**

All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the student handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct that involves **cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion**, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the code carefully and know their rights and responsibilities. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty's responsibility to enforce responsible class behaviors, and the instructor will do so, beginning with verbal warnings, and progressing to dismissal from class, to a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the student behavior committee.

The **Student Code** can be accessed online at:

(<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>)

**Statement on Equal Access:**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services (CDS), 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.