

Labor Economics – Econ 3100 - 001

Syllabus, Spring 2015

Credits-3

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

Kartik Verma

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Lecture Hours: Tuesday/Thursday, 9:10 am – 10:30 am, 104 OSH.

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday, 10:30 am – 11:30 am or by Appointment.

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

Course Objectives: The objective of the course is to convey an understanding of the roles and functions of the labor market. We begin with an overview of the U.S. labor market. We then 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.

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. We will review some of these tools in the first week of the semester.

Teaching Methods: Regular Lectures and Discussions.

Topics Covered: Labor demand, Labor supply, Human Capital theory, Discrimination, Monopsony, Labor Unions, Unemployment, Labor mobility.

Text: Labor Economics: Introduction to Classic and the New Labor Economics, Derek Laing, 1st edition.

The Economics of Labor Markets, Kaufman and Hotchkiss, 7th edition.

Chapters Covered: 1-5, 7-9, 11-12, 19-21 (Laing) + 11, 12, 13 (Kaufman and Hotchkiss).

Canvas: I will post lecture slides on Canvas. Other reading material will also be uploaded on Canvas including parts from the Kaufman and Hotchkiss book (chapters 11, 12 and 13).

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.

Grading and Exam Dates:

Assignments (5 in total - **Best 4** 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.

Electronic submission means sending assignments as attachments.

(see below for assignment schedule)

Midterm exam: (Tuesday, March 3rd, 2015. 9:10 am – 10:30 am)

Final exam: (Tuesday, May 5th, 2014. 8 am – 10 am)

The two exams will account for **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:

$A \geq 90, 83 \leq A- < 90,$

$76 \leq B+ < 83, 69 \leq B < 76, 62 \leq B- < 69,$

$55 \leq C+ < 62, 48 \leq C < 55, 41 \leq C- < 48,$

$34 \leq D+ < 41, 27 \leq D < 34, 20 \leq D- < 27,$

$E < 20.$

Course Schedule:

	Topics	Reading
Week 1	Introduction	Chapter 1
Week 2-7	The U.S. Labor Market	Chapter 2
	Part I: Foundations	Chapters 3, 4, 7, 5
	Part II: Applications & Extensions	Chapter 8
February 26th, 2015	Review for Midterm Exam	
March 3rd, 2015	Midterm Examination	
Week 8-14	Part II: Applications & Extensions	Chapters 9, 11-12
	Part IV: The Aggregate Labor Market	Chapters 19-21, 13* (KH)
	Part III: The Employment Relation	Chapter 11*, 12* (KH)
April 28th, 2015	Review for Final Exam	
May 5th, 2015	Final Examination	

Assignment Schedule (tentative):

	Assignment Handed Out	Assignment Due
Assignment 1	January 20	February 3
Assignment 2	February 3	February 19
Assignment 3 (Essay)	March 10 (tentative)	May 2 (tentative)
Assignment 4	March 12	April 2
Assignment 5	April 7	April 23

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.