



Course ECON 3100 060 and ECON 310 060
Labor Economics
3 Credit Hours
Fulfills University UI Requirement
Summer 2013
T/TH 6:00 – 9:00 pm
Murray Campus 108
Course Duration: 5/13/2013 – 6/19/2013

Professor Rick Haskell
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Course Text Ehrenberg and Smith, Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy 11th Edition (preferred - previous editions are acceptable, but homework assignments will come from the 11th Edition). Additional selected readings from published articles and texts will be available through Canvas. The text can be purchased through the campus bookstore or can be found very reasonably through various online book sellers.

Course Overview Labor-market economics employs wage theory, labor mobility, human-resource development, unionism, collective bargaining, employment, and public policy as a means to explain the differences in outcomes of labor.

In this course we'll discuss labor market theory and public policy including a brief review of the underpinnings of labor commodification and the labor theory of value. We'll discuss the microeconomic concepts of the various facets of the labor markets and explore applications of those concepts as they pertain to how individuals, households, firms and governments make labor market decisions. We'll build theoretical (mathematical) models as well as discuss current labor market issues relevant to the world in which we live.

There are no prerequisites for this class. However, some knowledge of microeconomics (at the principles level) will be very helpful. In addition, we will spend time analyzing graphs and doing simple calculations.

Course Objective	<p>Upon completion of this course students will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Understand differences in outcomes in the labor market through an exploration and understanding of the historical development of labor markets in western society, inclusive of the role of institutions, and how these markets have influenced individual, household, and firm level choices; 2) Be prepared to analyze current economic events and public policy questions through a framework of classical, microeconomic theory of labor supply and demand in respect to competitive markets; 3) Develop intuitive and judgments skills in respect to current labor market issues through application, assessment, and exploration of classical and alternative labor market theories; 4) Develop a theoretical framework through which they will be prepared to view the role of labor as a form of human capital in modern society.
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Learning Approaches	<p>This course employs a combination of lectures, readings, discussions, quizzes, exams and analysis to drive home the concepts and applications of economics. Class attendance and participation are strongly encouraged and you are responsible for material covered if you miss class. The assigned readings should be completed before class, will be discussed in class, and exam material will come from both the assigned readings and class discussions. Please note that you may be called upon in class. You will be required to write four (4) reaction papers and may be called on to present any or all of them (with advance notice). There will be two mid-term exams and one comprehensive final exam. If you anticipate missing a test due to a time conflict, please notify me in advance. No make-up exams will be given if arrangements are not made before the exam dates.</p>
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Homework Problems	<p>Given the condensed schedule for this course, I will assign a small number of homework problems after each class. Written answers to these questions will be due by the beginning of the next class session. Homework problems will account for 20% of your grade.</p>
Quizzes	<p>Quizzes will be given randomly and will include questions from recent readings and in-class discussions. If missed, quizzes will not be available for make-up.</p>
Exams	<p>There will be two mid-term exams and a final. The mid-terms exams will be held on 5/23/2013 and 6/4/2013, and the final will be held from 6:00-9:00 pm on 6/13/2013. The exams will include short-answer questions with longer problems and essays. Each of the exams (including the final) will be worth 20% of your grade. You are expected to be in class to take the exams on the given days. If you anticipate any unavoidable scheduling conflict, please see me immediately. Assigned readings from the text, additional required readings and topics discussed in class may be represented on the exams.</p>
Reaction Papers	<p>You will be required to write four (4) reaction papers and may be asked to present any or all of them (with appropriate notification). For each paper you are required to find an economic blog, national periodical, or published journal article which concerns an issue we have or will discuss in class. These papers are to be approximately 500 words in length and will be graded on content, grammar, syntax and appropriate use of graphs and charts. These papers will be due approximately once a week for this class.</p>

Grading	Reaction Papers)	20%
	Homework Assignments and Quizzes	20%
	Mid-Term #1	20%
	Mid-Term #2	20%
	Final Exam	20%

Grading Scale	A	94-100%	B-	80-83.9%	D+	67-69.9%
	A-	90-93.9%	C+	77-79.9%	D	64-66.9%
	B+	87-89.9%	C	74-76.9%	D-	60-63.9%
	B	84-86.9%	C-	70-73.9%	E	0-59.9%

Grades will be determined in accordance with the University of Utah's grading policies. Written feedback will be provided on all assignments, and more detailed feedback will be provided at any time upon request. If you believe you have received an incorrect grade on any assignment for this class, please bring it to my attention immediately.

Course Schedule (tentative)	Date	Classes and Topics	Readings
	5/14	Labor Commodification & Labor Theory of Value The Labor Market Introduction and Overview	E&S Chapters 1 & 2
	5/16	The Demand for Labor Labor Demand Elasticities	E&S Chapter 3 E&S Chapter 4
	5/21	Reaction Paper #1 Due Frictions in the Labor Markets Supply of Labor to the Economy	E&S Chapter 5 E&S Chapter 6
	5/23	First Mid-Term Exam Labor Supply: Household, Family, etc	E&S Chapter 7
	5/28	Reaction Paper #2 Due Compensating Wage Differentials Investments in Human Capital	E&S Chapter 8 E&S Chapter 9
	5/30	Worker Mobility: Migration and Immigration Pay and Productivity	E&S Chapter 10 E&S Chapter 11
	6/4	Reaction Paper #3 Due Gender, Race and Ethnicity Second Mid-Term Exam	E&S Chapter 12
	6/6	Unions and the Labor Market Unemployment	E&S Chapter 13 E&S Chapter 14
	6/11	Reaction Paper #4 Due Inequality and Earnings International Trade and Production Sharing	E&S Chapter 15 E&S Chapter 16
	6/13	Final Exam	

Expectations**You can expect me to:**

- Treat students and others with respect, expect that as adults we are each responsible for our decisions and actions, and ask “why” often.
- Grade and provide feedback on assignments within one week of the date they are submitted.
- Return email messages and phone calls within 24 hours.
- Use Canvas to enhance student learning, communication, and convenience.
- Follow the syllabus and hold each class session as scheduled. In the event of an unsolvable conflict or emergency, I will make every effort to arrange for a qualified substitute to teach the class.
- Be readily available to meet with students, either during regularly-scheduled office hours or at any other time that works for both of us.
- Complete final grades and provide students with feedback on final grades within two weeks of the date the last course assignment is submitted.

I expect you to:

- Actively communicate and use Canvas regularly.
- Complete reading and homework assignments, take all quizzes and exams, participate in class discussions and ask “why” often.
- Attend each class session. In the event that you must miss a class, please notify me in advance and assume responsibility for the material you missed.
- Read the course syllabus, ensure you have a clear understanding of the course requirements and evaluation methods used in the course, and fulfill the course requirements.
- Come to class prepared and participate fully, honestly, and professionally in class discussions and online class activities.
- Learn about and abide by the University of Utah’s academic honesty policy. Specifically, I expect you to not engage in cheating, plagiarism and furnishing false or misleading information to any faculty or staff member.
- Immediately notify me in the event of an emergency that prevents you from submitting an assignment or completing the course.
- Ask questions if any expectations or assignments are unclear.
- Be courteous of others when using technology. Always give speakers your full attention and make sure that any use of technology during class enhances your learning and does not distract you or others from course content.

Class Participation

This course is designed to be highly participative and participation in class discussions may be the source of meaningful extra credit. We will take time during most classes to discuss current domestic and international labor market issues. **There will be material covered in class that will not be part of the reading or homework assignments, but for which students will be responsible on Mid-Term and/or Final exams.**

Additional Readings

There will be two kinds of additional readings posted on Canvas: required and optional. We will discuss these readings in class and material from the required readings may be represented on exams. The list of readings will be updated throughout the semester, and the addition of new readings will be announced in class.

Late Assignment Policy

Late assignments will not be accepted for credit without prior permission.

ADA statement

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, 162 Union Building, 801-581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. (www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/)

Syllabus changes

This syllabus is subject to change. Potential changes will be discussed in class and may be posted in Canvas.
