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**Course**            **ECON 3100 070**  
**Labor Economics**  
**Fall 2012**  
**Tuesday 6:00 – 8:50 pm**  
**Sandy 119**

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**Professor**        Rick Haskell  
Office: OSH 343 – 8  
Office Hours: Tuesday 4:30 – 5:45 pm  
Sandy Campus Student Lounge  
Cell Phone: 801-209-3546  
Email: [rick.haskell@utah](mailto:rick.haskell@utah).

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**Course readings**    Ehrenberg and Smith, Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy 11<sup>th</sup> Edition (preferred - previous editions are acceptable, but homework assignments will come from the 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

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**Course Objective**    Students should come away from this course with an understanding of origins of labor market theory, the construct of supply and demand in modern labor markets and their microeconomic foundations, the ability to graphically and algebraically analyze various labor market issues, and an increased awareness of the impact of various social, economic and political influences on the labor markets and how these effect domestic and international economic growth. Additionally, students will be prepared to make objective and critical labor market decisions and to understand their impact on business and public policy.

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**Learning approaches**    This course employs a combination of lectures, readings, discussions, assignments (in and out of class), exams and analysis to drive home the concepts and applications of labor economics. Class attendance and participation are strongly encouraged and it is you are responsible for material covered if you miss class. The assigned readings should be

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completed before class, will be discussed in class, and homework assignments will come from both the assigned readings and class discussions. Quizzes may be given periodically, as an incentive to be prepared for class. Please note that you may be called upon in class. There will be two non-comprehensive exams and a 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.

**Exams** There will be two mid-term exams and a final. **The mid-terms exams will be held on 9/25/2012 and 11/6/2012, and the final will be held from 6:00-9:00 pm on 12/11/2012.** The exams will include short-answer questions with longer problems and essays. Each of the exams (including the final) will be worth 25% 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.

**Homework Problems** About once a week, I will assign a small number of homework problems from the text. Written answers to these questions will be due by the beginning of the next class session. Homework problems will account for 25% of your grade.

<b>Grading</b>	First Mid-Term	25%
	Second Mid-Term	25%
	Final Exam	25%
	Homework Problems	25%

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

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.

- 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 I will ask 'why' as often as possible.
  - 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

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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:**

- Complete reading and homework assignments, take all quizzes and exams, and participate in class discussions.
- 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 your or others from course content.

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**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/](http://www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/))

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**Syllabus changes**

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

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