

Syllabus for ECON 3100-002 Course (Labor Economics)

Basic Information:

Section Number: 070

Class time: Monday between 6 pm and 9:00 pm.

Class Location: Main Campus OSH 107

Contact Information:

Instructor: Kerem Cantekin

e-mail: keremcantekin@gmail.com, u0601066@utah.edu

Office: Cubicle 8, OSH Building 3th Floor, Main Campus

Office Hours: Between 11:00- 12:00 am and 9:00-11:00 pm on Monday. In case you could not come to the class but still want to come to office hours in a particular day, please send me an e-mail.

Course Overview

Even though in some cases, this can be a fact easy to forget, economic system is mainly based on the work done by billions of people every day throughout the world. Whatever are the other factors, creating them, whatever are their positive or negative effects, every economic indicator can exist only as long as this work done by people continues. However the work done by the people is usually taken as a side issue in contemporary economics. Other issues, like financial parameters like interest rates, or macroeconomic parameters like growth are usually taken as more important parameters, compared with parameters that are directly related to the labor.

Actually any parameter in economics in the end is related to work done by people one way or the other. In this course we will see first of all how within mainstream economics, what economics mean to most people within and outside of the economics field, labor is studied. We will see basic mainstream models, theories and concepts related to labor. This will be the major thing that will be seen in this course. The course however will provide some opportunities for students who want to go beyond the mainstream theoretic lines. The students will be able to see alternate texts, representing both mainstream and non-mainstream theoretical views and several labor market cases. They will also be given the opportunity to make their own research and presentation on a particular case.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, you are expected to know basic labor economics concepts, models and theories within of mainstream labor economics. You are also expected to be able to discuss issues related to labor economics.

This course also encourages you to develop your presentation, research and summarizing skills by providing opportunities for students.

The course also encourages you to make choices.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Both white board and power point presentations will be used as a method of teaching.

What each student takes from the course, and how they are graded, strongly depend to the choices made.

For self-study the book is the primary source, it provides sufficient information that is needed for self-study. In addition to the book, lecture slides will be uploaded to the CANVAS.

Regular Assignments can be taken as the major guideline for self-study.

In-Class Discussions and CANVAS discussions will be used as an additional method that will help students to form and present ideas on issues related to labor economics.

The course will provide additional texts for the students who are interested to learn more.

Students are given an opportunity to write a paper and make presentations on cases related to labor economics in class.

For some questions excel will be useful, but not absolutely necessary.

Required Textbook

Title: Fundamentals of Labor Economics Author: Hyclak, Johnes, Thornton Publisher: Houghton Mifflin

Extra Readings and Their Summaries

Except the weeks of 12th of January, 27st of April, each week I will upload 3 to 5 articles to the CANVAS on Tuesday. The articles will either give more information on the mainstream theories and models, or introduce you models and theories developed by alternative economic schools, or they will be on empirical studies and case studies. You won't be required to read them. But you have the option of reading and summarizing them instead of doing the weekly assignment of that week. If you read and summarize the articles, you are expected to send me the summary on next Tuesday. If there is no class immediately after I upload the assignment, then you can submit the assignment one week later (again on Tuesday). Your summary should contain the outline of all articles, the comparisons of the articles (in which way they are similar, which way they are different) and in the end you should have a part where you should write in which way information given in the article is relevant to the current problems in the economic system. A summary for each week, will replace the lowest assignment grade, as long as the grade of the summary is higher than that grade.

Structure of Class Sessions

Each session will start with the presentations of one or two students, in case there are students who are willing to present. Then (or if there is no one who is willing to present immediately at the beginning of the course) we will watch a video related to the subject we will cover. After we watch the video or I introduce the question and we will have a small discussion. If there was no presentation, I will give background information on the subject we cover. I will give some information on the math we are going to use that day. Then I will cover the main subject of the day. Then we will see examples of some questions I might ask on that subject. Lastly in case we have time we will have a discussion on a topic related to the subject we have covered.

Discussions on CANVAS

Except the weeks of 12th of January, 27th of April, each week on Friday, I am going to open a discussion topic on CANVAS. On weeks when we had an in-class discussion, the CANVAS discussion topic will be the topic we discussed in class. In case you make a contribution to all of these

discussions I will give you 5 extra points. However each contribution should be original (not copied and passed from another resource), meaningful, contain at least 50 words, and should not contain any insult to any person or to any group or to a nation. You will lose 1 extra point for each discussion you left without any contribution. The CANVAS discussions I opened before 9th of March will be closed at 13th of March. The CANVAS discussions I opened after 9th March will be closed at 1st of May. Both in midterm and final, you will have to write an original one page essay on one of the topics discussed on CANVAS. In midterm you will have to write on one of the topics of the CANVAS discussions opened before 9th of March, in final you will have to write on one of the topics of the CANVAS discussion opened after 9th of March.

Grading

Basics: In this course in many ways, you can chose between different options, which will change the way you are graded. I will provide you an additional document in addition to syllabus named "The Options this course provide to you", where you can see different choices you have in more detail. Here I am going to summarize the options. There are three main sources of grades in this course. The assignment are the first. The weight of the assignments will change between 0 and 44%, depending on the number of assignments you submit. The exam(s)/course paper is the second source of the course grade, and its weight will change between 56 and 100%. And CANVAS discussions, which potentially may provide you 5 extra points.

Assignments: Each week there will be one regular assignment, in addition to that assignment you can also submit a review of the papers, I have uploaded to CANVAS that week, and you can make a presentation (in class or online) each week. So each week you can potentially submit three assignments, one of them is the regular assignment. So potentially you may submit 33 assignments, and I will grade all the assignments you have submitted. In case you have submitted more than 11 assignments, I will take highest 11 out of all grades you have. Each assignment is worth 4 points. So in that case the weight of your assignments will be 44%. If you have submitted less than 11 assignments in that case, again each assignment will be worth 4 points and the weight of your assignments will be $(4 * \text{number of assignments you have submitted})$, and the weight of your exams will be $(56 + (11 - \text{number of assignments you have submitted}))$. For example if you have submitted 10 assignments, the will be 40, the weight of your exam(s) and/or course paper will be 60%. If you do not submit any assignment than the weight of your exam(s) and/or course paper will be 100%.

Exam(s)/Course Paper: There are two take-home exams in this course, one midterm and one final. You can also write a course paper. If you choose to submit two exams and course paper, I will use the two with highest grades, in order to calculate your Exam(s)/Course Paper Grade. The average of the two will be your grade.

CANVAS Discussions: I will open 11 CANVAS discussion, anyone who write a comment that is relevant and sufficiently long to all discussion will get 5 extra points. For each discussion you leave without comment, I will deduct 1 point.

Transformation of Grades out of 100 to Letter Grades: In case the average of the class becomes 75 or higher, the lower boundary will be 90% for A, 86.6% for A-, 83,3% for B+, 80% for B, 76,6% for B+, 73,3% for C+, 70% for C, 66,6% for C-, 63,3% for D+, 60% for D, 56,6% for D-, and anything below 56,6% will get E) If the average is less than 75 then anyone who's course grade is 1,6% above or 1,7% below the average will get C+, 3,3% and the difference between lower and upper boundary of each grade will be 3.3%. (If average is 60, anyone whose grade is between 55,1% and 58,4 will get C, anyone whose course grade is between 58,4% and 61,7% will get C+, anyone whose course grade is between 61,7 and 65 will take B-)

Structure of Regular Assignments

There will be 11 regular assignments. They will be given on Tuesday; you are expected to submit them on next Tuesday if there is class on that Tuesday. If there is no class next week immediately after I upload the assignment, then you can submit the assignment one week later (again on Tuesday). On the weeks of 12th of January and 27th of April no assignment will be given. Each regular assignment will have 10 short answer questions and one analytical question.

Short answer questions are typically the questions which can be answered sometimes just with one word or graph, and at most with 3 or 4 sentences. Analytical part is the part where you need to solve mathematical problems.

All of your answers should be original work, which means, your answers should not contain identical sentences or graphs. The graphs, may of course look similar, but they should not look as if they are carbon copied. You should also not copy any of the sentences directly from your book or lecture notes or any source you find in internet. In the discussion part, you can take quotations from other sources, but you should present them within "", and you should mention your resource immediately before the sentence you have taken. Note you also cannot take sentences from your own comment made on CANVAS without putting it within "" and showing references. At least 50% of an ideal essay should be original work.

Structure of Midterm and Final

Both midterm and final will be Take Home Exam. Midterm will be given on 13rd of March midnight. You are expected to send the answers to me before midnight 15th of March. Final will be given on 1st of May midnight. You are expected to send the answers before 3rd of May midnight.

Both midterm and final will have a short answer part, analytical part and discussion part. Short answer and the analytical part questions will be similar to ones you have seen in your regular assignments. In discussion part, you will be asked to write an essay on one of the subjects discussed in CANVAS.

Midterm will be on the topics covered before 9th of March. (Monopsony and minimum wage is not included in midterm.) Final will be on the topics covered after 9th of March. Wage Inequality, Income inequality and poverty is not included in the Final. For Midterm, the subjects you may choose will be one of the topics of the discussions opened before 9th of March on CANVAS. For Final, the subjects you may choose will be one of the topics of the discussions opened after 9th of March. You may work with your peers with your classmates before the exam to get some common ideas.

All of your answers should be original work, which means, your answers should not contain identical sentences or graphs. The graphs, may of course look similar, but they should not look as if they are carbon copied. You should also not copy any of the sentences directly from your book or lecture notes or any source you find in internet. In the discussion part, you can take quotations from other sources, but you should present them within "", and you should mention your resource immediately before the sentence you have taken. Note you also cannot take sentences from your own comment made on CANVAS without putting it within "" and showing references. At least 50% of an ideal essay should be original work.

You can send me the exam back through CANVAS or e-mail. you can either write them directly using software program, or scan them, or take photo of them, or have any mix of these three methods. I am going to check my e-mail Saturday night, between 10 pm and 12 pm and answer any questions you might have, in case you need me to clarify what is asked in a particular question. You can

potentially get 50 points from the Short Answer Questions part, and 40 points from the analytical part and 10 points from discussion part. I will accept late submissions, but you'll lose 5 points per hour.

Structure of the Term Paper

You can decide to write a term paper. In that case your grade from the term paper will replace either your midterm or final grade. You are expected to submit your term paper on 3rd of May midnight. The term paper should be 20 pages long. If you decide to write a term paper, you need to inform me on the subject you choose by sending me an e-mail or a CANVAS message, and describe in 3-4 sentences why you have chosen that particular subject before 9th of February. As the topic of your term paper;

- 1) You can choose a particular case relevant to labor economics, which might be a special governmental program like Bracero Program, an employment policy exercised by a company, like employment policy of Mc Donald's, it might be a specific law related to labor, like minimum wage law, or a specific trend, like increasing participation of women in the labor force. You should describe the case, providing information and data. Analyze the case, introducing the factors behind the decisions or trends creating the case. And implications experienced or possible future implications that are created or will be created by the case.
- 2) Alternatively you can focus on a particular theory or model within labor economics. In this case first you should describe the theory or model, then write how the theory or model was criticized or further developed by other economists. Lastly write how the theory or model is (or is not) relevant to actual economic cases and trends related to labor. If there are some cases that approve or refute the theory or show that the model is relevant or irrelevant, you can include them to your paper. Note if you choose this option, the model or theory should ideally be something we didn't cover in the course widely, if you choose a subject covered in the course widely, then your paper should go beyond what we have seen in the course.
- 3) In case you have completely original idea, we can discuss it.

Grading the Term Paper: Ideally at least 50% of your term paper should be original. And you should connect different parts of the paper, in other words your paper should be coherent, not just a collection of unrelated parts. If you decide to write the term paper, you can either submit me just the term paper. Alternatively you can send me 1, 2 or 3 additional documents which will consist of part of your term paper grade if you submit them, but will also provide you feedback. Note any sentences directly taken from resources (which can be a book, an article, an internet site or an interview you made) should be presented in "", and you should mention the source immediately before the sentence. You should also give references of the works you have used at the end of your paper.

So the 4 documents related to the term paper are:

The list of resources: If you submit this document, 10% of your term paper grade will consist of this document. You should provide 6 separate resources which you think may be useful for your paper. The resources may be books, articles, data sources, and if you can reach those, people who are related to the subject you have chosen. You should describe each one of your resource in 2-3 sentences, and then write again in 2-3 sentences why you think it is useful for your term paper. Deadline for submission of this document is on 2nd of March.

The Outline of Your Paper: If you submit this document, 10% of your term paper grade will consist of this document. Outline should be at most a 1 page document long, where you describe

different chapters of your paper, ideally write for 3-4 chapters in a 20 page long term paper. You can provide subchapters. But this is not a necessary rule, if you think it is appropriate for your paper, you can provide, as many or as little number of chapters. In this document you are required to list different chapters of your paper, and under each chapter in 3-4 sentences on what are you planning to cover in that chapter and how are you planning to organize that chapter. If for some reason you think, you better would not divide your paper into chapters, write in a half page, why do you think having no chapters is appropriate for your paper, and how are you planning to organize your paper. Deadline for the submission of this document is on 23rd of March.

Draft: If you submit this document it will make 20% of your term paper grade. Draft should be around 10-15 pages long. The draft may contain notes. Chapters in a draft can be incomplete, you don't need to include references. Typically however it should contain basic data, and some of the basic ideas of your paper. It should also roughly show organization of your paper. Deadline for the submission of this document is 20th of April.

Paper Itself: The grade of final form of your term paper will consist of residual of your total term paper grade. If you don't submit any of three documents above final form of the term paper will make 100% of your term paper grade. If you submit all three documents, the grade given to the final form of term paper will consist of 60% of your grade.

In-Class and Online Presentations and Questions

Basics: Each week on Tuesday except the first and last week I will post suggestions for topics you may choose to make a presentation next week. Typically each topic might be used by different presenters with slight modifications. If you choose to make a presentation on a specific week, you should inform me, until Thursday midnight, and also write me the subject you have chosen. If the subject two people have chosen is exactly the same, the first one who informed me will make a presentation on that subject. I will make suggestions to the second person, slightly different subjects for his or her presentation.

In-class Presentations: Among the people who wants to make presentations in a particular week, the two people, who informed me first, will make presentation in-class, unless for some reason they want to submit their presentations online. Each presentation should be 10 minutes long and there will be 5 minutes where presenters might answer the questions. In case you are willing to stay after 9 pm, you can make the presentation after the class. If some people are willing to do that, will be another 2 presenters who may make presentation after the regular class time between 9pm-9:30pm.

Online Presentations: The people who are not able to make in-class presentations may make online presentations. However online presentations are experimental for this course. If you decide to make an online presentation in a particular week, you should send me the video file one week after I have posted suggestions for presentations, on Tuesday of that week. Make sure it is possible to open the file, at least on the computers within the computer labs of the library. If I cannot open the files in my computer I will try those ones. If I also cannot open your files at those computers, it is impossible for me to grade your presentation. If you may have tables, charts, graphs etc., you can prepare a word or pdf document containing them and send me the file with the video file, and in your presentation you may refer to the graphs, charts, tables, etc. you have send.

Submission of Assignments, Article Summaries, Online Presentations, Term Paper and Exams

You can submit your assignments either through e-mail or through CANVAS. You can also give them to me on Mondays after or before class, or you can bring them into my office. In case you choose to send them through e-mail, you can either write them directly using software program, or scan them, or take photo of them, or mix of these three methods. Just make sure, I am able to read what you have sent me. You have to send your midterm, final and your course paper through CANVAS or email.

Outline of the Course

12 January Introduction to the Course and Labor Economics (Chapter 1)

19 January NO CLASS (Presidents Day)

26 January Labor Supply Participation (Chapter 4)

2 February Hours of Work (Chapter 5)

9 February Human Capital (Chapter 6)

16 February NO CLASSES (Martin Luther King's Day)

23 February Labor Demand (Chapter 2 and 3)

2 March Labor Market Equilibrium (Chapter 7)

9 March Monopsony and Minimum Wage (Chapter 9)

16 March NO CLASSES (Spring Break)

23 March Unions and Collective Bargaining (Chapter 12)

30 March Job Search and Unemployment (Chapter 8 and 14)

6 April Discrimination (Chapter 13)

13 April Internal Labor Markets and Personal Economics (Chapter 10 and 11)

20 April Wage Inequality, Income Inequality and Poverty (Chapter 15)

27 April General Review

SOME IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

"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 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." (www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/)

"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 as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty

Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.”

“Faculty...must strive in the classroom to maintain a climate conducive to thinking and learning.” PPM 8-12.3, B. “Students have a right to support and assistance from the University in maintaining a climate conducive to thinking and learning.” PPM 8-10, II. A. The Student Code is spelled out in the course schedule. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the code. The code also specifies proscribed conducts (Article XI) that involve cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students may receive sanctions for violating one or more of these proscriptions. The instructor of this class will enforce the code in this course; cheating and plagiarism will result in appropriate penalties, such as a failing grade on a specific exam or in the course and/or expulsion from the course. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.”

“The syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification.” “Attendance requirements & excused absences: The University expects regular attendance at all class meetings. An instructor may choose to have an explicit attendance requirement. Physical attendance may be used as a criterion in determining the final grade only where it indicates lack of participation in a class where student participation is generally required or as required by accrediting bodies. Any particular attendance requirements of a course must be available to students at the time of the first class meeting.” “Students absent from class to participate in officially sanctioned University activities (e.g., band, debate, student government, and athletics) or religious obligations, or with instructor's approval, shall be permitted to make up both assignments and examinations. The University expects its departments and programs that take students away from class meetings to schedule such events in a way that will minimize hindrance of the student's orderly completion of course requirements. Such units must provide a written statement to the students describing the activity and stating as precisely as possible the dates of the required absence. The involved students must deliver this documentation to their instructors, preferably before the absence but in no event later than one week after the absence.” “Some of the readings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that may conflict with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking. If you have a concern, please discuss it with me at your earliest convenience. For more information, please consult the University of Utah’s Accommodations Policy, which appears at: www.admin.utah.edu/facdev/accommodations-policy.”