

# Econ 3100–02: Labor Economics

(M–W, 08:05 AM – 09:25 AM, OSH 104)

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Office : OSH 213  
Office Hours : M–W, 09:30 AM – 10:30 AM or by appointment

**Course Description:** This course is intended to provide students an understanding of the modern theory of labor market and its usefulness for policy analysis. We begin with an overview of key concepts of the labor market. We then study the modern theory of labor market behavior and analyze several topics of special interests to students. Finally, while policy issues will be discussed throughout the semester, we apply the concepts and theory of modern labor markets to two issues of major policy importance in the last two or three decades: widening earnings inequality and the effects of international trade on labor markets.

**Prerequisite(s):** There are no specific prerequisites for this class. However, some knowledge of microeconomics (at the principles level) and basic algebra will be very helpful.

**Text:** *Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy*, 12<sup>st</sup> Edition

**Author:** Ronald G. Ehrenberg and Robert S. Smith; **ISBN:** 978–0133462784

A copy is on reserve at the Marriot Library for limited use – 4 hours. An older edition may work as well with certain adjustments. Those with the 11th edition are strongly advice to read ‘New to This Edition page xviii of the 12th edition from their classmates.

**Other Materials:** Various blogs that focus on macroeconomic issues are available online. Some of these are The Federal Reserve Bank of New Yorks Liberty Street Economics blog <sup>1</sup> and The Economists Labor Market blog<sup>2</sup>. As I find interesting articles and videos, I will post them or the link on Canvas.

## Grade Distribution:

Quizzes	20%
Assignments (2)	20%
In-class Midterm Exam	30%
In-class Final Exam	30%

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<sup>1</sup><http://libertystreeteconomics.newyorkfed.org/labor-economics/>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.economist.com/topics/labour-market/>

**Letter Grade Distribution:**

$\geq 93$	A	73 – 76.9	C
90 – 92.9	A –	70 – 72.9	C –
87 – 89.9	B +	67 – 69.9	D +
83 – 86.9	B	63 – 66.9	D
80 – 82.9	B –	60 – 62.9	D –
77 – 79.9	C +	$\leq 60$	E

**Course Policies:**

- Assignments consist in **one** individual paper summary and **one** Group Debate
- Exams are in-class, closed book, closed notes, and non-cumulative.
- You can eliminate **one** quiz at the end of the semester.
- **No late assignments will be accepted.**
- **No makeup quizzes or exams will be given.**

**Tentative Course Outline:**

Week	Date	Chapters
Week 1	Aug–24	1
	Aug–26	2
Week 2	Aug–31	3
	Sep–02	3 (cont.)
Week 3	Sep–07	Labor Day
	Sep–09	4
Week 4	Sep–14	5
	Sep–16	6
Week 5	Sep–21	6 (cont.)
	Sep–23	7
Week 6	Sep–28	7 (cont.)
	Sep–30	8
Week 7	Oct–05	Review
	Oct–07	MIDTERM
Week 8		Fall Break
Week 9	Oct–19	13
	Oct–21	13 (cont.)
Week 10	Oct–26	9
	Oct–28	9 (cont.)
Week 11	Nov–02	10
	Nov–04	10 (cont.)
Week 12	Nov–09	11
	Nov–11	11 (cont.)
Week 13	Nov–16	12
	Nov–18	15
Week 14	Nov–23	14
	Nov–25	14 (cont.)
Week 15	Nov–30	16
	Dec–02	16 (cont.)
Week 16	Dec–07	Review session 1
	Dec–09	Review session 2
Week 17	Dec–16	FINAL

**Note: This syllabus is not a binding legal contract. The instructor may modify it when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification. All changes will be announced in class and on Canvas**

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**University policies:**

Academic (Dis)Honesty. Academic dishonesty of any kind is a serious offense, which undermines both the reputation and quality of the degrees issued by the University of Utah. Plagiarism of any kind, intentional and/or unintentional, will result in strict sanctions against the student per university policy. Please meet with me immediately if you are unclear as to what constitutes plagiarism.

The University Code: Section V. A. Students must adhere to generally accepted standards of academic honesty, including but not limited to, refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, research misconduct, misrepresenting ones work, and/or inappropriately collaborating.

Section V. B. A student who engages in academic misconduct may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension, or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the students degree or certificate.

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

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