

Syllabus for Econ 3100-002, Spring 2013

MBH 302, MW 11:50pm - 1:20pm

Course: Labor Economics

Instructor: Mansokku Lee

E-mail: lee@economics.utah.edu - please allow a 24-hour response time

Office Hours: MW 1:40pm - 2:40pm (Office #)

1 Course Description

How do we people decide how many hours they wish to work, what jobs they wish to hold, or how much education or training they should acquire to achieve these goals? how do firms decide how many workers, and what kind of workers, to hire? how do these decisions by workers and firms combine to produce employment and unemployment levels and income distribution? How does immigration affect the labor market? What is job discrimination? What causes it, how do we measure it, and how do we remedy it? How can an understanding of the labor market improve our understanding of the problem of poverty? These are the kinds of questions we will address in this class. We will spend a lot of time developing theoretical (mathematical) models of these issues, but we will also look at evidence on how these issues play out in the real world.

2 Required Textbook

Labor Economics (6th ed.) by George J. Borjas: McGraw Hill. ISBN-13: 978-0073523200

3 Course Expectation

The University expects students to study approximately two hours outside of class for every hour in class. Therefore, students should plan on studying five to six hours a week outside of class. This should be sufficient for most students. This course is a quantitative intensive course, which means that exams will have quantitative problems that require some mathematical reasoning. College algebra and basic calculus should be sufficient for understanding and solving all of the exercises found on either the homework assignments or exams. No knowledge of highly-advanced calculus is required for this course.

4 Grading Scheme

The final grade for Econ 3100 is calculated as follows:

assignment	10%
project	10%
midterm exam	40%
final exam	40%

Your grade will be determined by the following scale:

A = 93-100	B+ = 83-85	C+ = 71=75	D = 50-60
A- = 86-92	B=79-82	C = 66-70	E = 49 and below
	B- - 76-78	C- = 61-65	

Assignment: At the end of each chapter, the list of exercise problems for that chapter will be provided. All the questions assigned will come from the topics discussed in class. It is highly recommended that students work on it because some exam questions will be modifications of these questions. The lowest assignment score will be dropped to be a part of your final grade.

Project: One term paper with data analysis will be assigned (roughly ten pages in length). The purpose of writing paper will be to apply the concepts developed in class to the analysis on some aspect of labor economics. Specific topics of paper will be given to you.

Exams: There will be 60-minute midterm exam and 90-minute final exam during the semester. Please refer to the tentative course schedule for the dates and scopes of these tests. Exercise provided in the book, review questions, and the examples presented during lectures constitute the important preparation material for the exams.

5 Policies

- Make up exams will not be offered except in most special circumstances, the judgment of which belongs to the instructor. Arrangements must be made prior to the time the exam is given.
- In completes will be given only for reasons of illness or family emergency. Evidence may be required.
- Academic dishonesty (cheating, etc.) or disruptive behavior in the classroom will not be tolerated and may lead to expulsion from the course, failure of the course, or possibly more severe penalties. For a complete description of the student's rights and responsibilities, see the Student Code found under the students section at the University of Utah homepage.

6 ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. 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, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in the course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services. Please contact me at the beginning of the semester to discuss any such accommodations you may require for this course.

7 Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Date	Chapter	Topic	Notes
1	1/7, 1/9	1, 2	Introduction	
2	1/14, 1/16	2, 3	Labor Supply	
3	1/23	3	Labor Demand	
4	1/28, 1/30	4	Labor Market Equilibrium	
5	2/4, 2/6	5	Compensating Wage Differentials	
6	2/11, 2/13	6	Human Capital	
7	2/20		Catch Up	
8	2/25, 2/27		Review and Exam	Midterm on 2/27
9	3/4, 3/6	7	Wage Structure	
10			No class (Spring break)	
11	3/18, 3/20	8	Labor Mobility	
12	3/25, 3/27	9	Labor Market Discrimination	
13	4/1, 4/3	10	Labor Unions	
14	4/8, 4/10	11	Incentive Pay	
15	4/15, 4/17	12	Unemployment	
16	4/22, 4/24		Catch Up and Review	
17			Final Exam (TBA)	Project due

Please Note: I reserve the right to make minor changes to the schedule above. Any changes will be announced in class well in advance.

8 Important Dates

Wednesday, January 16: Last day to drop (delete) classes

Tuesday, January 22: Last day to register, elect CR/NC, or audit classes:

Friday, March 1: Last day to withdraw from classes

Friday, April 19: Last day to reverse CR/NC option