

University of Utah
Department of Economics
Economics 3100-001 Summer 2018
Labor Economics
3 credits, Quantitative Intense (QI) Course
M,W 12:55 P.M. - 3:55 P.M.
Building 73 Room 105

1 Textbook

This course will utilize *Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy*, 13th edition by Ronald Ehrenberg and Robert Smith. Along with the text other readings will be posted on Canvas or distributed in class as needed.

2 Office Hours

Office hours are Tuesday from 1:00pm until 2:30pm, (13:00 - 14:30). My “office” is located in Building 72 Section D. I am also available by appointment, email ari.fenn@economics.utah.edu to set up a time to meet.

3 Prerequisites

While this class has no official prerequisites as a QI¹ in economics it will rely on the use of graphical analysis and algebra.

4 Learning Objectives

By the end of this course the student will

1. have an understanding of the perfectly competitive labor market. To demonstrate this the student will be able to:
 - Derive a labor supply curve.
 - Derive a labor demand curve.

¹The University of Utah defines a QI course as “the quantitative intensive requirement will build upon students prior quantitative foundations by further developing analytic reasoning skills and deepening knowledge of quantitative methods that are specific to a particular discipline. As a result, students will not only become better-informed interpreters and evaluators of quantitative data, they will also learn how to apply newly acquired quantitative skills and methods in ways that address practical issues, solve real-world problems, or model phenomena according to disciplinary standards and conventions.”

2. have an understanding of labor market frictions.

- Imperfect competition
- Imperfect information
- Paid training
- Minimum wage
- Labor unions

3. understand theories of why wages are different.

- Human capital theory
- Discrimination
- Institutional and Radical theories.

5 Grading

Grades will be calculated based on the following components: in class participation, group work, one group presentation, one midterm, and one final.

Grade Weights

Category	Percentage of Grade
Participation	10
Group Presentation	15
Group Work	25
Midterm	25
Final	25

5.1 Participation

Every student is expected to actively participate during in-class discussions and activities. Regular attendance of class is a necessary condition but it is not a sufficient condition to earn full participation credit.

5.2 Group Work

Each class session will have time dedicated to group work. Depending on the day this can consist of problems, discussions or readings. Each group will be asked discuss or present with the rest of the class.

5.3 Group Presentation

Each group will prepare one 15 to 20 minute presentation on an assigned paper. The presentation is in addition to the in class group work and is to be prepared outside of class.

5.4 Tests

There will be a midterm and final each worth 25% of the total grade. The midterm and final will be taken in class.

5.4.1 Midterm

The midterm will cover the first learning objective. One handwritten page (front and back) of notes will be allowed. There will be one hour and fifteen minutes allotted for the midterm. The exam will not be curved, rather each student will be allowed to correct the mistakes for up 50% of the missed points.

5.4.2 Final

The final will cover the second and learning objectives. Two handwritten pages of notes will be allowed. The entire class period will be allotted for the final.

5.5 Letter Grades

Letter Grade Range

Letter Grade	Percentage Points	University Defined Performance
A	≥ 93	Excellent performance, superior achievement
A-	92.99 - 90.00	
B+	89.99 - 88.00	Good performance, substantial achievement
B	87.99 - 82.00	
B-	81.99 - 80.00	
C+	79.99 - 76.00	Standard performance and achievement
C	75.99 - 69.00	
C-	68.99 - 65.00	
D+	64.99 - 61.00	Substandard performance, marginal achievement
D	60.99 - 54.00	
D-	53.99 - 50.00	
E	≤ 49.99	Unsatisfactory performance and achievement

6 Schedule

Tentative Schedule^a

Week	Dates	Topic	Reading
1	6/25	Introduction and Overview	ES ^b 1,2
	6/27	Labor Supply	ES 6
2	7/2	Labor Supply	ES 7
	7/4	No Class	
3	7/9	Labor Demand	ES 3,4
	7/11	Midterm	
		Labor History	
4	7/16	Labor Market Frictions	ES 5
	7/18	Compensating Differentials	ES 8,9
		Human Capital Investment	
5	7/23	Wage Determination Within the Firm	ES 11
	7/25	Unions	ES 13,14
		Unemployment	
6	7/30	Gender and Race	ES 12
	8/1	Final	

^aDepending on the pace of the course reading assignments may be modified.

^bEhrenberg and Smith

7 Disclaimers and Policies

7.1 Attendance

Attendance is part of the participation grade. Additionally the exams will be based heavily on the lectures, do not expect to pass this course without regular attendance. Lecture notes are not available on-line nor by request.

7.2 Equal Opportunity

“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. www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/”

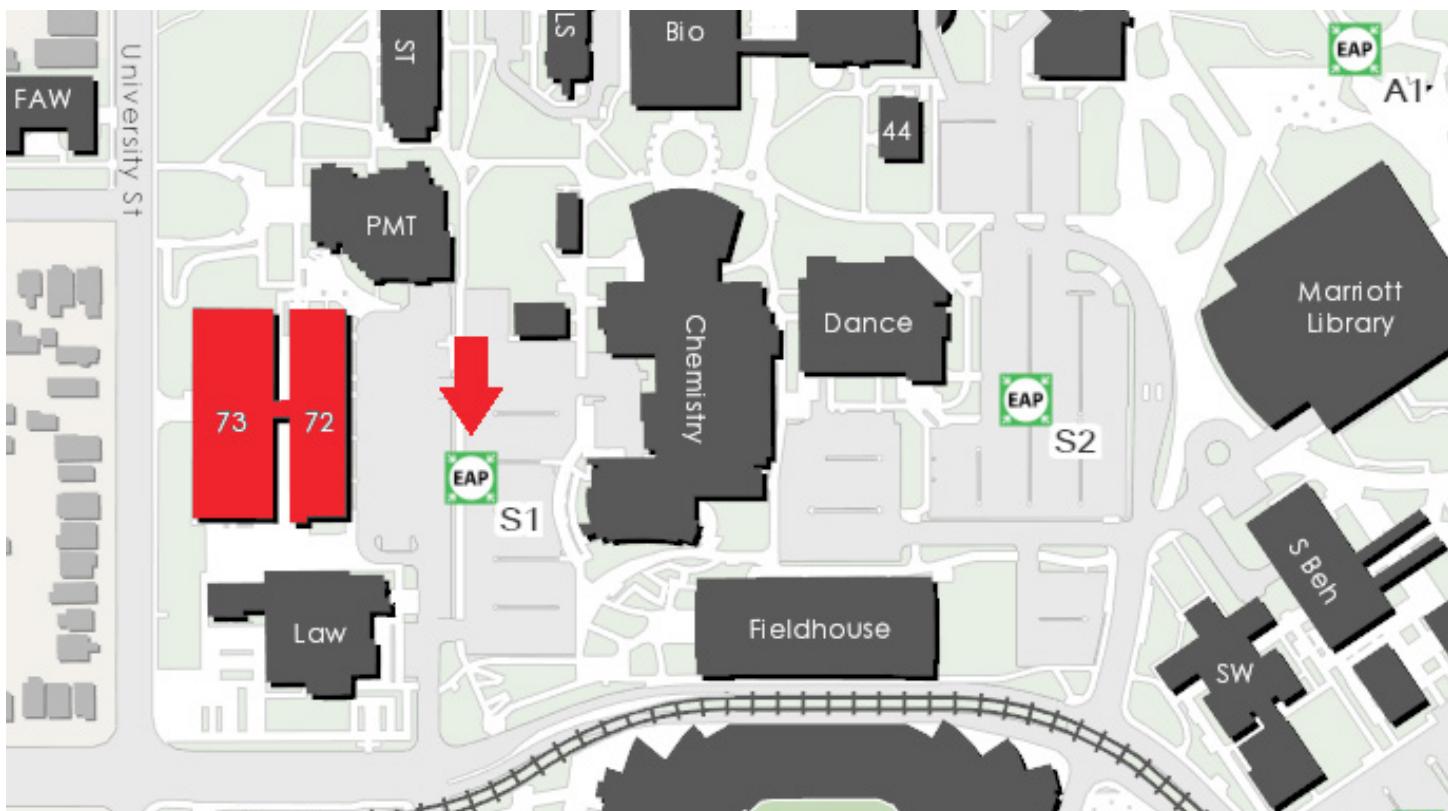
7.3 Student Conduct

Ideally this course will foster discussion on a broad range of socially important topics. This means that there will and should be conflicting points of view expressed during the discussions. Healthy debate is integral to the learning process and will be encouraged. Debate does NOT mean shouting at, calling names, or generally adopting a combative, demeaning or belittling attitude towards a classmate with an opposing view point. This behavior will NOT be tolerated.

7.4 Academic Misconduct

Per University Policy. “A student who engages in academic misconduct (i.e. cheating, plagiarism, etc.) may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from the academic program or the University. This process, including how to appeal, is outlined in Section V., Student Academic Conduct, of the Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities.”

CSBS EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN



BUILDING EVACUATION



EAP (Emergency Assembly Point) – When you receive a notification to evacuate the building either by campus text alert system or by building fire alarm, please follow your instructor in an orderly fashion to the EAP marked on the map below. Once everyone is at the EAP, you will receive further instructions from Emergency Management personnel. You can also look up the EAP for any building you may be in on campus at <http://emergencymanagement.utah.edu/eap>.

CAMPUS RESOURCES



U Heads Up App: There's an app for that. Download the app on your smartphone at alert.utah.edu/headsup to access the following resources:

- **Emergency Response Guide:** Provides instructions on how to handle any type of emergency, such as earthquake, utility failure, fire, active shooter, etc. Flip charts with this information are also available around campus.
- **See Something, Say Something:** Report unsafe or hazardous conditions on campus. If you see a life threatening or emergency situation, please call 911!

Safety Escorts: For students who are on campus at night or past business hours and would like an escort to your car, please call **801-585-2677**. You can call 24/7 and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your desired on-campus location.