

**Labor Economics**  
**Econ 3100-001 Fall 2014**

**Meeting Time and Location:** T & H 2:00pm - 3:20pm in OSH 236

**Instructor:** Komson “Off” Chanprapan

Office: OSH 209

Office Hours: T & H 1:00pm - 2:00pm or by appointment

Email: econkc@gmail.com

**Course Description:** In this course, we will discuss the theoretical principle of labor economics by applying microeconomic theories. The aim is to explain the fundamentals of wage differential in the labor market.

**Credits:** 3 semester credit hours

**Textbook:** Borjas, George J., *Labor Economics* (Any Edition), McGraw-Hill Irwin.

**Course Objectives:** The main objective of this class is that students should understand the roles and functions of the labor market. Students should be able to explain the fundamental of labor economic using microeconomic theories and models. Next, the application of microeconomic will be demonstrated in the context of labor economics. Students should be able to explain the causes and results of wage differentials, unemployment, etc in both perfect and imperfect market competition. Also, students should understand the role of government in providing policies against wage differentials.

**Assignments and Exams:**

Group Presentation	15%
Group Assignments	15%
Individual Paper	10%
Midterm Exam 1 (9/23 @ 2:00pm - 3:20pm)	20%
Midterm Exam 2 (11/18 @ 2:00pm - 3:20pm)	20%
Final Exam (12/18 @ 1.00pm - 3.00pm)	20%

**Grading:**

A	>90
A-	86-90
B+	81-85
B	76-80
B-	71-75
C+	66-70
C	61-65
C-	56-60
D+	51-55
E	<50

*And/or by curving (I will decide which one will be the best for majority).*

**Policy:** *No make-up exams will be given, regardless of reason, except when required under University regulations. I will only give a makeup midterm and final if:*

1. You are very ill and have to be under a physicians care for this condition. Supply of a note from your physician has to be provided.
2. An immediate family member is very ill or has an emergency situation and you have a good reason why this prevents you from attending the exam. I will be the judge of whether your reason is good enough

**Group Presentation:** Students are required to work in a group of 3-4 people. The presentations are scheduled between October 30 to November 6 during the class time. Every member in the group must show up in order to receive a full credit. Also, every member must take part in the presentation. Each group is required to select one topic related to the theories covered in class. The sources for data shall be provided. The grading will depend on the level of understanding of students on the topic present. Slides shall be used. Submission of paper is not required but the outline of presentation can be submitted for a review.

**Individual Paper:** Each student are required to write an essay. The topic is "What Determines the Wage Differentials?" The length of the essay should not exceed 1000 words but no less than 500 words. Student should focus on a few, if not one, reason and explain it in detail. *The deadline for the essay is the final exam date.* A hardcopy is required. Late submission will be penalized by 50% of the actual score. The grading will depend on the clarity of explanation and level of understanding of the student.

## Class Schedule:

8/26	Introduction/Math Review
8/28	Labor Supply
9/2	Labor Supply (cont.)
9/4	Labor Demand
9/9	Labor Demand (cont.)
9/11	Labor Market Equilibrium
9/16	Labor Market Equilibrium (cont.)
9/18	Group Assignment 1
9/23	Midterm Exam 1
9/25	Compensating Wage Differential
9/30	Human Capital
10/2	Human Capital (cont.)
10/4	The Wage Structure
10/9	Labor Mobility
10/11	Labor Mobility (con.)
10/16	<i>Fall Break</i>
10/18	<i>Fall Break</i>
10/23	Labor Market Discrimination
10/25	Labor Market Discrimination (cont.)
10/30	<i>Presentation</i>
11/4	<i>Presentation</i>
11/6	<i>Presentation</i>
11/11	Group Assignment 2
11/13	<i>No Class</i>
11/18	Exam 2
11/20	Labor Union
11/25	Labor Union (cont.)
11/27	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>
12/2	Incentive Pay
12/4	Unemployment
12/9	Unemployment (cont.)
12/11	Group Assignment 3
12/18	Final Exam