



ECON 3100-001 – Labor Economics

Fall 2021

Syllabus

Course Information

Instructor: Aashima Sinha

Department: Economics

Email: aashima.sinha@utah.edu

Class Location: Gardner Commons (GC) 2660

Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2pm -3:20 pm

Office Hours: By appointment

IMPORTANT: COVID-19

University leadership has urged all faculty, students, and staff to model the vaccination, testing, and masking behaviors we want to see in our campus community.

These include:

- Vaccination
- Masking indoors
- If unvaccinated, getting weekly asymptomatic coronavirus testing

Vaccination

- Get a COVID-19 vaccination if you have not already done so. Vaccination is proving highly effective in preventing severe COVID-19 symptoms, hospitalization and death from coronavirus. Vaccination is the single best way to stop this COVID resurgence in its tracks.
- Many in the campus community already have gotten vaccinated:
 - o More than 80% of U. employees
 - o Over 70% of U. students
- Visit <http://mychart.med.utah.edu/>, <https://alert.utah.edu/covid/vaccine/>, or <http://vaccines.gov/> to schedule your vaccination.

Masking

- While masks are no longer required outside of Health Sciences facilities, UTA buses and campus shuttles, CDC guidelines now call for everyone to wear face masks indoors.

- o Check the CDC website periodically for masking updates—

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinatedguidance.html>

- o Treat masks like seasonal clothing (i.e. during community surges in COVID transmission, masks are strongly encouraged indoors and in close groups outside).

Testing

- If you are not yet vaccinated, get weekly asymptomatic coronavirus tests. This is a helpful way to protect yourself and those around you because asymptomatic individuals can unknowingly spread the coronavirus to others.

- Asymptomatic testing centers are open and convenient:

- Online scheduling

- Saliva test (no nasal swabs)

Free to all students returning to campus (required for students in University housing)

Results often within 24 hours

Visit alert.utah.edu/covid/testing

- **Remember: Students must self-report if they test positive for COVID-19 via this website: <https://coronavirus.utah.edu/>.**

Course Description

Course Summary

Labor economics examines the operations of the labor market and the world of work. After exploring what determines the demand for and supply of labor, we turn to a range of labor market issues including education and training, the determination of wages, the effects of unemployment, the causes and consequences of discrimination, immigration, unions and other issues.

This course surveys the market and institutional factors that affect decisions about employment. Econ 3100 is a 3-credit course designated Quantitative Intensive. In accordance with this designation, students will develop the skills to interpret and critically assess labor issues presented in academic and popular publications using text and graphical expression. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Objectives

At the end of the term students will be able to contextualize the operation of labor markets in both history and current events. By the end of this course, students will be able to

- Explain the decisions of workers and employers that provide the foundation for the labor supply and demand framework, and predict the wage and employment outcomes associated with these decisions in a competitive labor market
 - Interpret US labor market data including the monthly unemployment report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics
 - Understand current issues in labor market policy through theoretical and empirical approaches.

Required Materials

Ronald G Ehrenberg and Robert S. Smith, *Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy, 13th Edition* (Prentice Hall, 2014).

The textbook is available through the University's inclusive access program which offers discounted text access for those students who are willing to use a digital textbook through the Canvas course site. You may opt in to or out of inclusive access using the 'bookshelf' tab in the menu on screen left and the instructions available in the file titled 'Access the textbook.' You may also opt out at the link <https://portal.verba.io/utah/login>.

Additional required materials will be made available on Canvas.

Teaching and Learning Methods

This is an in-person course that will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays 2pm -3:20 pm throughout the semester. Class Location: Gardner Commons (GC)2660 (<http://map.utah.edu/index.html?code=GC>)

I will present slides for each topic, in class, complemented with class discussion. The slides for each module will be posted on Canvas under the respective Module.

Refer to the Canvas page for details on Modules, Assignments and Exams and Announcements.

Effective communication is essential for the success of this course, and you are encouraged to contact the instructor to discuss any questions, and to reach out when the content or delivery is not working for you. Your instructor is a human being who is invested in your intellectual progress.

Canvas Time Zone Information

To ensure you are viewing due dates and times correctly, as well as events in the calendar, set your student Canvas time zone to your current location by following this [guide](#).

If you do not change your time zone, all due dates and times listed in Canvas default to Mountain Time.

All written content in the course, including office hours written in the syllabus, is in Mountain Time unless stated otherwise.

Evaluation and Grading

Semester Grading Scheme

Grades will be calculated based on the following required work and letter grades assigned according to the University of Utah grading scheme.

Weekly Quizzes: 30%

Application questions and Discussion: 30%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

Weekly Quizzes

Each module includes a short quiz on the presented content. This quiz serves several functions for you as a student. First, it highlights essential information from the reading, lecture, or power point slides. Second, it provides an opportunity for you to assess your learning in a situation where you have resources at hand to improve your learning. Finally, the quizzes give you a sense of the language, format, and content that will be included on the midterm and final exams.

Application Problems

Each week students will implement key tools and ideas from the material presented through completing application problems. These assignments will be graded for accuracy and precision. The applications are intended to give you a deeper understanding of the material.

Discussions

Students are expected to engage in class discussions regarding contemporary issues in labor economics and labor policy. These discussions will include a selection of supplementary reading material which students will synthesize, interpret, and respond to.

Exams

We will have two exams in the semester- Mid-term exam and Final exam.

1. The **midterm exam** will be held in Module 7. The exam will open on **Monday, October 4** and is due on **Sunday October 10, 11:59pm**. The Exam will be timed -so once you have opened the exam page you will have **80 minutes for the mid-term exam**. . Do not open the final exam before you are ready to complete it.
Mid-term exam will include 50 multiple choice questions.
2. The **Final exam** will be held in Module 15 and is due on **December 16, 2021, 11:59 pm** (during the University final exam period).
NOTE: The final exam will open on Friday, December 10 and is due on Thursday, December 16, 11:59pm.
 - The final is a timed exam. ONCE YOU OPEN THE EXAM YOU WILL HAVE 120 MINUTES TO COMPLETE IT. Do not open the final exam before you are ready to complete it.
 - Exam will include 50 multiple choice questions. The final exam is not cumulative.
 - You will find a link to the exam on the Final Exam Module Overview and Instructions page or you can simply find it under Module 15 tab. It is open book, notes, videos, quizzes, and practice, and does not require ProctorU.
 - You must complete the exam on your own.

Exams will not be proctored and can be taken from your home computer using the resources available to you including the textbook, power point slides, video lectures, and your notes. Each student is expected to complete the exam on his/her/their own - no collaboration is permitted. Exams will be timed - once you have opened the exam page you will have **80 minutes for the mid-term exam and 120 minutes for the Final exam**. You must study for the exam in order to complete it in the time available. More details on the exams will be posted later.

Late Assignments

This course is designed for weekly work assignments that are completed that week. To do well in this course, you must stay up to date with the material on a weekly basis. Please note due dates and work each week to keep up with the course.

Late exams will not be accepted without an excuse from the University or a medical professional.

University of Utah Grading Scale

Grade	Percent (%)
A	94 and above
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73

D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
E	0-59

Course Outline

The course is organized into 14 week-long modules and the 15th week for the Final Exam Revision. To see the module schedule and assignment due dates, students should view the Course Summary section below and the course **Modules**.

Course Summary

Modules	Week	Topic	Assignments due	Due date
Module 1	August 24-26	Intro/Orientation & Supply and Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 1 Application Assignment 1 	August 30
Module 2	August 31-September 2	Labor Market Supply and Demand – the Basics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 2 Application Assignment 2 	September 6
Module 3	September 7-9	Understanding Labor Market Data & Current Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 3 Application Assignment 3 	September 13
Module 4	September 14-16	Theory of Labor Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 4 Application Assignment 4 	September 20
Module 5	September 21-23	Labor Demand Elasticity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 5 Application Assignment 5 	September 27
Module 6	September 28-30	Employer-side Frictions & the Gig Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 6 Application Assignment 6 	October 4
Module 7	October 5-7	Midterm Exam week	Mid-term exam	October 10
FALL BREAK (October 10-17)				
Module 8	October 19-21	Labor Supply I – Households & the Division of Labor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 8 Application Assignment 8 	October 25
Module 9	October 26-28	Labor Supply II –the Individual Choice Model of Market Labor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 9 	November 1

		Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application Assignment 9 	
Module 10	November 2-4	Labor Supply III – Market participation and public policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 10 Application Assignment 10 	November 8
Module 11	November 9-11	Human Capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 11 Application Assignment 11 	November 15
Module 12	November 16-18	Minimum Wage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 12 Application Assignment 12 	November 22
Module 13	November 23 *No class on November 25	Monopsony Labor Markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 13 Application Assignment 13 	November 29
Thanksgiving break (November 25-28)				
Module 14	November 3- December 2	Discrimination in the labor market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 14 	December 6
Module 15	December 7-9	Exam Revision	-	-
Final Exam due: December 16, 2021, Thursday				

Note: No class will take place during the fall break week (October 10-18) and on November 23 (Thanksgiving break).

Syllabus Changes

This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for our course. Please note that I may modify it with reasonable notice to you. I may also modify the Course Schedule to accommodate the needs of our class.

Course Policies

Technology Issues and Tech Help

24/7 help is available to all students via the *Help* button in the far-left Canvas menu. For more detailed information about getting tech help, please review the information on the

Tech Help page of the course.

Content Accommodations

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 this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Institutional Policies

All students and instructors are expected to adhere to the following university policies:

The Americans with Disabilities Act

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 this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Accommodation Policy (see Section Q): <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.php>

University Safety Statement

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message.

For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu (Links to an external site.).

Addressing Sexual Misconduct

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office

of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

Drop/Withdrawal

Students may drop a course within the first two weeks of a given semester without any penalties. Students may officially withdraw (W) from a class or all classes after the drop deadline through the midpoint of a course. A “W” grade is recorded on the transcript and appropriate tuition/fees are assessed. The grade “W” is not used in calculating the student’s GPA. See the [Academic Calendar](#) for the last day to withdraw from term, first and second session classes.

Deadlines for courses with irregular start and end dates policy:

<https://registrar.utah.edu/handbook/miscellaneous.php>

Plagiarism/Cheating

It is assumed that all work submitted to your instructor is your own work. When you have used ideas of others, you must properly indicate that you have done so. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on an individual assignment, and/or failure in the course. Academic misconduct, according to the University of Utah Student Code, *“includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one’s work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct.”*

For detailed definitions and possible sanctions, see the Student Code:

<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>

Wellness Statement

Your personal health and wellness are essential to your success as a student. Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student’s ability to succeed and thrive in this course and at the University of Utah. Please speak with the instructor or TA before issues become problems.

For helpful resources, contact the Center for Student Wellness at www.wellness.utah.edu or 801-581-7776.

Veterans Support Center

The Veterans Support Center is a “one stop shop” for student veterans to find services, support, advocacy, and camaraderie. They are located in the Park Building Room 201.

You can visit their website for more information about their services and support at:

<http://veteranscenter.utah.edu>

LGBT Resource Center

The University of Utah has an LGBT Resource Center on campus. They are located in Room 409 of the Olpin Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm.

You can visit their website to find more information about the support they can offer, a list of events through the center and links to additional resources: <http://lgbt.utah.edu>.

Learners of English as an Additional/Second Language

If you are an English language learner, please be aware of several resources on campus that will support you with your language and writing development.

These resources include:

Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.utah.edu>)

Writing Program (<http://writing-program.utah.edu>) **English Language Institute** (<http://continue.utah.edu/eli>)

About the U

As the only institution in the state classified in the highest research category (R1), at the University of Utah you will have access to state-of-the-art research facilities and be able to be part of the knowledge creation process. You will have the opportunity to do research of your own with faculty who are leading experts in their field, engaging in programs that match your research interests. Further, you will interact with and often take classes with graduate students that provide an advanced understanding of the knowledge in your field.

CSBS Emergency Action Plan

Not every online student comes to campus, but some do. Familiarize yourself with the [CSBS Emergency Action Plan](#) before you come to campus.

Student Mental Health Resources

- Rates of burnout, anxiety, depression, isolation, and loneliness have noticeably increased during the pandemic. If you need help, reach out for campus mental health resources, including counseling, trainings and other support.

- Consider participating in a Mental Health First Aid or other wellness-themed training provided by our Center for Student Wellness and sharing these opportunities with your peers, teaching assistants and department colleagues.