

Course ECON 3100-070

Labor Economics - 3 Credit hours

Summer 2021 2st Half: May 17- June 27 (Course essay due 7/7/2021)

Online Course Delivery

Fulfills University QI Requirement

Instructor Rick Haskell

Office Hours: By appointment Cell Phone: 801-209-3546 Email: <u>rick.haskell@utah</u>.edu

Course Materials

There is no required text for this course as all required and supplemental content is delivered online through Canvas. Students interested in Labor Economics may be interested in Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy. I rely heavily on the 11th Edition, but any edition is acceptable and can be purchased through the campus bookstore or can be found very reasonably through various online book sellers.

Course Communications

In addition to using Canvas and emails, this course uses What's App to communicate between the instructor and students. If you don't already have What's App loaded on your mobile phone, please upload it ASAP. You can accept my invitation to the What's App group for the course through Group: https://chat.whatsapp.com/J1VYg43XUKtEbNILFUChf6. When you have a question about a particular course module, you'll likely see another student has already asked it and you can see the answer - if it hasn't been asked yet, then you'll be the one to do so and the answer will be available to everyone in the course. Using this communication tool makes this course run more smoothly and quickly!

Course Overview

At its core, the discussion of Labor Economics is a discussion of microeconomic principles applied to labor markets and labor market policies in an effort to understand differences in outcomes experienced by various labor market participants. In other words, *labor economics* simply seeks to explain why different people receive different wages.

This course emphasizes the evaluation of economic models illustrative of modern labor markets and uses a combination of video content, Quizzes, Review Problems, Canvas Discussions, and Exams. The assigned modules should be completed in the order in which are presented in Canvas and all Quizzes, Review Problems and Exams must be completed on or before the assigned due dates and before taking the exams covering their respective content.

There are no specific prerequisites for this class. However, some knowledge of microeconomics (at the principles level) and basic algebra will be very helpful. We'll spend a significant amount of time analyzing graphs and doing algebraic calculations.

Quizzes

There is a short Quiz to be taken following each video segment, of which there are 4-6 per module. While these quizzes are "scored", the QUIZ SCORES ARE NOT INCLUDED IN YOUR COURSE GRADE and are intended to be added instructional elements of the course. Taking the quizzes is STRONGLY recommended, should be completed by the due date and time for their respective modules.

Review Problems

At the end of each of the course's 15 modules there is a graded Review Problem covering some of the more important aspects of the module. These problems include a combination of objective, short answer and calculation questions/problems which are very similar to those to be found on the exams. Practice problems complementary to the material covered in the various modules can be found by going to www.richardhaskell.net under the heading of *In-Class Problems*. There are also supplemental *Instructional Primers* and alternative *Video Content* available through this site.

Canvas Discussions

Students will participate in five (5) separate Canvas Discussions throughout this course. These discussions represent interactions with other students on topics which are related to labor economics, but not specifically addressed in the course video modules. These range from a discussion of the minimum wage and unemployment to the effects of robotics an AI on the labor market.

Course Essay

This course is focused on a central theme in the form of the question, "Why do different workers receive different wages?" Students are reminded of this question throughout the course and the final course assignment comprises a response to the question. Beyond the initial course modules developing the mathematical and graphic foundations used throughout the course, each module offers a theoretical, graphic, and equational structure in support of at least one of the plausible responses to the central theme's question.

Course Schedule

An updated course schedule can be viewed through the Canvas site for this course.

Grading

Participation	5%
Review Problems	60%
Canvas Discussions	15%
Course Essay	20%

Grading Scale

Α	> 93.9%	B-	80 - 83.9%	D+	67 - 69.9%
A-	90 - 93.9	C+	77 - 79.9%	D	64 - 66.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	С	74 - 76.9%	D-	60 - 63.9%
В	84 - 86.9%	C-	70 - 73.9%	Е	<60%

Grades will be determined in accordance with the University of Utah's grading policies. Written feedback will be provided on some assignments and more detailed feedback will be provided at any time upon request. If you believe you have received an incorrect grade on any assignment for this class, please bring it to my attention immediately.

Expectations

You can expect me to:

- Treat students and others with respect, expect that as adults we are each responsible for our decisions and actions, and ask "why" often.
- Grade and provide feedback on assignments within one week of their submission.
- Return email messages, texts and phone calls within 24 hours.
- Use Canvas to enhance student learning, communication, and convenience.
- Follow the syllabus and hold each class session as scheduled. In the event of an
 unsolvable conflict or emergency, I will make every effort to arrange for a qualified
 substitute to teach the class.
- Be readily available to meet with students, either during regularly-scheduled office hours

or at any other time that works for both of us.

 Complete final grades and provide students with feedback on final grades within two weeks of the date the last course assignment is submitted.

I expect you to:

- Actively communicate and use Canvas regularly.
- Complete all Modules, Quizzes, Review Problems, Reaction Papers, Research Project and Exams, and participate in exam reviews and ask "why" often.
- Read the course syllabus, ensure you have a clear understanding of the course requirements and evaluation methods, and fulfill the course requirements.
- Learn about and abide by the University of Utah's academic honesty policy. Specifically, I
 expect you to not engage in cheating, plagiarism and furnishing false or misleading
 information to any faculty or staff member.
- Immediately notify me in the event of an emergency that prevents you from submitting an assignment or completing the course.
- Ask questions if any expectations or assignments are unclear.
- Be courteous of others when using technology. Always give speakers your full attention and make sure that any use of technology during class enhances your learning and does not distract your or others from course content.

Supplemental Materials

There are supplemental readings, video content, Instructional Primers, and In-Class Problems available through various links in Canvas and on www.richardhaskell.net.

Late Policy

Late assignments will not be accepted for credit without prior permission.

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.

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.

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).

Undocumented Student Support Statement. Immigration is a complex phenomenon with broad impact—those who are directly affected by it, as well as those who are indirectly affected by their relationships with family members, friends, and loved ones. If your immigration status presents obstacles to engaging in specific activities or fulfilling specific course criteria, confidential arrangements may be requested from the Dream Center. Arrangements with the Dream Center will not jeopardize your student status, your financial aid, or any other part of your residence. The Dream Center offers a wide range of resources to support undocumented students (with and without DACA) as well as students from mixed-status families. To learn more, please contact the Dream Center at 801.213.3697 or visit dream.utah.edu.

Syllabus changes

This syllabus is subject to change. Potential changes will be discussed in class and may be posted in Canvas.

Course Schedule Labor Economics - ECON 3100 070 Summer 2021 - First Half

Module	Topic	Quiz & Problem Due Dates			
INTRO	Course Introduction	Sunday			
1	The Labor Market	5/23/2021,			
2	Marginality in the Labor Market	11:59 pm			
	Canvas Discussion #1:	Minimum Wage is due 5/30			
3	Evaluating Labor Market Models	Cumdou			
4	Labor Demand Characteristics	Sunday, 5/30/2021,			
5	Labor Supply Characteristics	11:59 pm			
	Canvas Discussion #2: Unemployment in the age of COVID-19 is due				
6	Friction in the Labor Market	Sunday,			
7	Labor Demand Elasticity	6/6/2021, 11:59 pm			
	Canvas Discussion #3: Labor Replacing Technology is due 6/13				
8	Compensating Wage Differentials	Sunday,			
9	Human Capital Investments	6/13/2021,			
10	Monopsony	11:59 pm			
	Canvas Discussion #4: Immigration is due 6/20				
11	Worker Mobility and Migration	Sunday			
12	Pay & Productivity	Sunday, 6/20/2021,			
13	Labor Market Discrimination	11:59 pm			
	Canvas Discussion #5: Lal	oor Discrimination is due 6/27			
14	Labor Unions	Sunday,			
15	Income Inequality	6/27/2021, 11:59 pm			
	Course Essay	Online submission due Wednesday 7/7/2021 at 11:59 pm			