Students, please replace the syllabus you have for Economics 460 with this copy. Thank you.

-Economics 460
Introduction to Human Resources

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 9-10, 11-12
Office: Economics 114

Spring 1988
Prof. Elizabeth Peters

Required Reading:

Grading: Your final grade will be based on two midterms (20 percent each), a final comprehensive exam (30 percent) a group project including a class presentation and written report (20 percent), and class discussion (10 percent). Details about the group project will be provided during the first week of class.

Course Content and Objectives:
This course will cover topics in human resources that have received much recent attention by economists, the press, and policymakers. For example, over the last decade there has been a striking increase in the number of female-headed households and in the incidence of poverty among children. The labor supply, education, fertility, and marital decisions of women as well as policies about welfare and training programs and public support for childcare facilities will impact these phenomena directly. In addition, changes in the U.S. industrial structures such as the shift to service industries, the demand for high tech skills, and the decline of heavy industry have adversely affected many individuals. Choices about education, occupation, job training, and geographical location can either mitigate or exacerbate the consequences of these structural changes.

The course will provide students with the analytical tools and empirical background to be able to make informed judgments about these human resource issues. In addressing the issues the course will focus on several common themes and questions:

1. In what ways can economic analysis contribute to a better understanding of the issue?
2. What are the limitations of economic analyses?
3. What assumptions are crucial to reaching a given conclusion?
4. Are there other plausible assumptions that might lead to different conclusions?
5. How do the institutions of family, government, and the market affect the choices that individuals make and the consequences of those choices?

STUDENTS WILL BE ADMINISTRATIVELY DROPPED IF THEY HAVEN'T ATTENDED CLASS TO SIGN UP FOR ONE OF THE GROUP PROJECT TOPICS BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 29.