COURSE SYLLABUS
Labor Economics
ECON 4616

Instructor: Kristen Stein
Office: Econ 11 (basement)
Phone: (303) 492 - 7869
Office Hours: W 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.

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Class Meeting Times: MWF 10:00 - 10:50
Classroom: EDUC 155
Prerequisites: ECON 3070

Course Objective: The objective of this course is to introduce you to the mechanics of the labor market. The course will incorporate both theory and empirical findings. Tools drawn from your intermediate and introductory microeconomics classes will be used to analyze the basic supply and demand decisions of agents in the labor market. In addition, several topics of special interest in labor economics will be addressed. These topics include: the relationship between worker compensation and risk on the job, the affect of labor market discrimination on the earnings and employment opportunities of minorities, the relationship between a worker's pay and his/her level of specific and/or general training, and the influence of labor unions and employment contracts on members' wages and employment possibilities. Once having established an understanding of how labor markets work, you should be equipped to assess the impact of public policy proposals on labor market participants. (e.g. the impact of changes in the minimum wage on the employment possibilities of teenagers and/or senior citizens, or the effect of changes in welfare programs on a recipient's willingness to work, etc.)


Grading: Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance on take-home assignments, hourly exams (in class) and a final exam. The weights will be assigned as follows:

- Take-home assignments: 40%
- Two, hourly exams and a final: 60% (20% each)

A total of three take-home assignments will be distributed. However, I will use only the two best scores on the take-home assignments to determine the homework portion of your grade. No make up midterms will be administered. If you happen to miss a midterm throughout the semester, then the weight of your final exam will be increased appropriately.
Additional Information: I would like to make an electronic addressbook for this class. This addressbook will be useful should I need to contact you throughout the semester. I would appreciate each of you sending me an email letting me know that you are enrolled in my Econ 4616 class. Simply write to me at kstein@colorado.edu and put ECON 4616 on the subject line. Thanks!

Schedule of Course Readings and Assignments
(schedule subject to change)

WEEK OF:

Aug. 24       Chapter 1: Introduction to Labor Economics
              Appendix (An Introduction to Regression Analysis)

Aug. 31 & Sept. 7  Chapter 2. Labor Supply: Theory and Evidence

Sept. 14  Chapter 3. Labor Supply Over Time (tentative)

ASSIGNMENT #1 due September 16.

Sept. 21 & 28  Chapter 4. Labor Demand

EXAM #1: October 2.

Oct. 5       Chapter 5. Labor Market Equilibrium

Oct. 12      Chapter 6. Compensating Wage Differentials


ASSIGNMENT #2 due October 21.


Nov. 2       Chapter 9. Labor Mobility

EXAM #2 : November 6.

Nov. 9       Chapter 10. Labor Market Discrimination

Nov. 16     Chapter 11. Trade Unions

ASSIGNMENT #3 due November 25.

Nov. 30   Chapter 12. Labor Market Contracts ...
Dec. 7

Chapter 13. Unemployment

FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 14
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.