

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO-Boulder
Labor Economics-Econ 4616
Fall 2004
Instructor: Alpna Bhatia

Office: Economics Room 4C

Office Hours: M-W 10-11 am and By Appt.

Office Phone: 303-492-3827

E-mail: alpna.bhatia@colorado.edu

Website :

<http://ucsu.colorado.edu/~bhatiaa/labor.html>

Course Prerequisite

This class requires previous completion of Economics 3070, Intermediate Microeconomics, or the equivalent. This course assumes you understand intermediate level supply and demand analysis and are acquainted with models of consumer and firm behavior. We will also use some algebra and calculus (integration and differentiation). If you are not sure whether you have the necessary preparation for this course, please come talk to me. This prerequisite is non-negotiable.

Textbook

George Borjas Labor Economics McGraw-Hill, 3rd Edition, 2005. This book is available at the University Bookstore.

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the economic analysis of labor markets. The objective of this course is to familiarize the student with theories of how labor markets work and empirical evidence that either supports or rejects these theories. The aim is to understand the forces that influence behavior in this market.

Special attention will be given to the impact that public policies have upon the labor market. Some of the topics to be considered include: unemployment, compensating wage differentials, unions, human capital investment, and discrimination.

Office Hours:

Office hours are Monday and Wednesday, 10-10:50 am and by appointment. These hours are reserved for you, and I encourage you to spend as much of this time as you need getting help. If you are unable to make these office hours I will also schedule appointments at other times at your request.

E-mail:

Email is absolutely the best way to get in touch with me, except for emergencies. I try to be prompt about replying to e-mail.

I will also like to create an electronic class list. This list will be useful should I need to contact you throughout the semester. Simply write to me at alpna.bhatia@colorado.edu and put Labor Economics on the subject line.

GRADING:

The class grade is based on a (one best of 2) midterm exam, a final exam, home works, journal entries, and your class participation grade. If you miss any of the exams, no make up exam will be given. If you miss one midterm, the grade on the second midterm will count. If you miss BOTH midterms, due to circumstances beyond your control that you have documented to my satisfaction of course, then the weight on your final exam will increase appropriately. Students anticipating conflict with an exam date due to religious observance must bring these to my attention within the first 3 weeks of class. In case of over-scheduling (3 or more exams on the same day) it is your third exam of the day that must be changed.

I will hand out multiple problem sets. Some we will solve in class, together, and the remaining will be take home. Three of these take home problem sets will be due at the beginning of the next class and will be graded. This process is NOT random. Your syllabus tells you exactly which problem sets will be graded and when they are due. I will NOT accept any late problem sets. There are no make up problem sets if you miss an assignment.

Journal entries will involve your writing about current events and relating them to topics being discussed in class. In-class participation and exercises will be used to promote discussion of the issues we cover and, most importantly, give students practice with the material in preparation for exams.

Attendance: I will follow the text closely. However, I will lecture on some things that are not in the text. Also, for some topics, my treatment will be different than that of the text. The text should be viewed as a complement to the lectures, not a substitute. You are responsible for the material in the text, and in the lectures.

Attending all lectures is the key to success in this course. Substantial student practice will take place through in-class exercises. In order to re-enforce the importance of attendance, it will be factored into final grades. Attendance will be taken regularly and any student missing more than 20% (9) of the course's scheduled classes will receive a failing grade. To be clear, these absences are intended to cover both valid (illness, car breaking down) and invalid reasons for missing class. Excused absences will therefore not be granted. I reserve the right to record an absence for students who spend substantial class time on non-class activities (e.g. reading the paper) or leave the class early.

Final Grade:

1 best of 2 midterms: 100 points	:100
1 Final: 150 points.	:150
3 Home Works: 25 points each	: 75
3 Journal Entries: 25 points each	: 75
<u>In Class Participation and exercises (10)</u>	<u>: 50</u>
Grand Total	500

Actual letter grades will be based on a combination of each student's performance relative to others in the class and the typical grading scale.

Some Tips and Suggestions:

You should read the assigned material before coming to class. It is not expected that you will understand everything you read the first time. However, reading before class and having a good sense of the material will make the lectures a lot easier to understand.

After attending lecture, you should go over your notes and reread any material that is confusing. Take class notes thoroughly. Course material not in the textbook will be presented in class so attending lecture is both helpful in getting a good grade and maximizing your learning experience.

If you miss class, you are responsible for obtaining the material you missed. You should arrange to obtain notes from a classmate not from the professor. I encourage you to come to my office hours to discuss the material you missed, but you must first obtain the notes and relevant handouts, go over the information for yourself, and prepare specific questions to ask me.

Extra Credit Assignments: Are not given.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Economics Department and I will try and make all reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students must notify me no later than the end of the first week of term, and provide documentation of the disability obtained from the Disabilities Services office located in Willard Hall, Room 322.

HONOR CODE

I strongly believe in the Honor Code and expect you to abide by it. Any violation to this code including the following infractions is punishable by receiving an F in the class.

- Copying the work of another student during an examination.
- Permitting another student to copy one's work during an examination.
- Possessing unauthorized notes, crib sheets, additional sources of information, or other material during an examination.
- Writing an answer to an exam question outside of class and submitting that answer as part of an in-class exam.
- Taking an examination for another student or a second party taking an exam for you.
- Altering or falsifying examination results after they have been evaluated by the instructor and returned to the student.

For more information about the CU Honor Code, go to

<http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR POLICY

I generally make sure that this class starts and ends on time. It is especially important that an atmosphere which facilitates the maximum opportunity for learning be present at all times. It is expected that all students present on a given day be attentive, polite and not a source of distraction to the instructor or any other student. Arriving late or departing early disrupts the class. Please refrain from both. For more information about the Classroom Behavior Policy, go to <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	Chapter	Assignment
23 Aug	Introduction	ch. 1	
25-30 Aug	Labor Supply	ch. 2	PS I
01-03 Sept	Topics in Labor Supply	ch. 3	
06 Sept		No Class Labor Day	
08-22 Sept	Labor Demand	ch. 4	PS II : due
22- 29 Sept..	Labor Market Equilibrium	ch 5	
1st Oct		No Class Fall Break	
4- 6 Oct	Labor Market Equilibrium	ch. 5	Write up 1 due on 6 th
8 th OCT		Test I	
11-15 Oct	Compensating Wage Differ	ch. 6	
18-27 Oct	Human Capital	ch. 7	PS III
27-29 Oct	Wage Structure	ch. 8	
1-8 Nov	Labor Mobility	ch. 8 – 9	PS IV due on 1 st
10-17 Nov	Discrimination	ch. 10	PS V, Write up II due
19 Nov.		Test II	
26 Nov.		No Class Thanksgiving	
29 Nov	Labor Unions	ch. 11	
1-3 Dec	Labor Unions	ch. 11	PS VI due on 3 rd
6-8 Dec	Incentive Pay	ch. 12	Write up III due on 6 th
14 th Dec		FINAL 1:30-4:30 pm	