

# ECON 4616 - Labor Economics

Spring 2018  
T-TH 12:30PM-1:45PM

Instructor: Professor Richard Mansfield  
E-Mail: [richard.mansfield@colorado.edu](mailto:richard.mansfield@colorado.edu)  
Office: 04B Economics Building  
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30PM - 3:30PM  
Wednesday 11:00AM - 12:00PM  
Wednesday 1:00PM - 2:00 PM

January 15, 2018

## 1 Course Overview

The first objective of this course is to expose students to basic economic theory governing the determination of the level of wages and employment in the labor market. Thus, the course will begin with the classic models of labor supply and labor demand, and will then address more recent developments regarding job search frictions, discrimination, human capital development, performance incentives, non-wage benefits, and automation.

The second objective of this course is to develop students' ability to test the theories presented in class using labor market data. Thus, considerable attention will be focused on how to formulate an economic model, isolate its testable predictions, and select and transform data so that such predictions can be evaluated.

## 2 Prerequisites

The prerequisite for this course is Economics 3070 (Intermediate Microeconomic Theory)

## 3 Assignments and Grading

Weekly problem sets will be distributed that are designed to reinforce and expand upon the topics covered in class. These problem sets will not be graded, and solutions will be provided separately at the time they are distributed. However, in-class quizzes based on these problem sets will occur each Thursday starting the second week of class. Scores on these in-class quizzes will comprise 10% of each student's grade. Quizzes may not be made up, but each student's lowest score over the course of the semester will be dropped.

There will be two in-class midterm examinations (tentative dates: February 15th and March 22nd). Each midterm will comprise 25% of each student's grade. The final exam will comprise 30% of the student's grade. The final exam will be comprehensive, but will focus primarily on untested content from the final third of the semester. Calculator use is prohibited on quizzes and exams. The final 10% of each student's grade will be based on classroom attendance, scores on in-class clicker questions, and oral classroom participation. The final exam will take place Sunday, May 6th from 4:30PM to 7:00PM.

Each student's weighted average score will be calculated, and a final letter grade will be computed based on a curve that ensures that the distribution of grades will be similar to that observed in 4000-level courses in economics.

## 4 Textbook

The primary textbook for the course is Modern Labor Economics, 11th edition, by Ronald Ehrenberg and Robert Smith. While the content and sequence of lectures will generally follow the textbook, not all lecture material will be covered in the textbook, and not all textbook material will be covered in class. All problem sets and exams will be based only on the content covered in lecture. Thus, purchase of the textbook is not explicitly required. However, because the course closely follows the book, buying the textbook is *extremely strongly* encouraged. Later or earlier editions will likely suffice, though they may not be perfectly aligned with the material in the 11th edition.

## 5 Course Website

Students should enroll in this course's Desire-2-Learn (D2L) webpage. This syllabus will be posted there, along with problem sets, announcements, and grades.

## 6 Course Schedule

A tentative schedule of lecture topics, textbook reading assignments, and exam dates is provided below. The chapters listed refer to Ehrenberg and Smith's *Modern Labor Economics*, 11th edition.

Week	Topics	Book Chapters
Jan 16th/18th	Introducing the Economic Model& Perfect Competition	Ch. 1
Jan 23rd/25th	Perfect Competition & Intro. to Labor Demand	Ch. 2 & 3
Jan 30th/Feb 1st	Labor Demand with Competitive Markets	Ch. 3 & 4
Feb 6th/8th	Workers vs. Hours/Worker	Ch. 5
Feb 13th/15th	Review & <b>1st Midterm Exam</b>	Ch. 1-5
Feb 20th/22nd	Automation	Not in book
Feb 27th/Mar 1st	Static Labor Supply	Ch. 6
Mar 6th/8th	Welfare Policy	Ch. 7
Mar 13th/15th	Occupational Sorting	Ch. 8
Mar 20th/22nd	Review & <b>2nd Midterm Exam</b>	Ch. 6-8
Mar 27th/29th	Spring Break	
Apr 3rd/5th	Human Capital	Ch. 9
Apr 10th/12th	Wage Contracts & Performance Incentives	Ch. 11
Apr 17th/19th	Unemployment	Ch. 14
Apr 24th/26th	Unemployment & Discrimination	Ch. 12 & 14
May 1st/3rd	Discrimination & Review	Ch. 12
May 6th	<b>Final Exam</b>	

## 7 Clickers

Students are required to have a clicker for this class and extra batteries for each class. Clicker information will be used to help determine your attendance and participation grade. You are responsible for purchasing and registering the your clicker by Jan. 18th. Information on how to register clickers is available at <http://www.colorado.edu/oit/tutorial/cuclickers-iclicker-remote-registration>. Make sure you use your identity key log in name so your clicker number can be matched to the grade roster. If you have any problems with your clickers call IT at 5HELP. Remember that using someone elses clicker for them violates the honor code, so do not do it and do not ask someone to use your clicker if you are going to be absent from class.

## 8 Attendance

Students who do not attend at least two of the first three classes may be administratively dropped from the course in favor of students on the wait list.

## 9 Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member by the end of the second week of class so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting

accommodations is located on the Disability Services website ([www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students)). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Medical Conditions under the Students tab on the Disability Services website and discuss your needs with your professor.

## **10 Religious Holidays**

If you expect to miss an exam in order to observe a religious holiday, you must communicate this request to the professor prior to Friday, January 26th.

## **11 Makeup Exams**

If you communicate to me prior to the day of the exam that you will need to miss an exam due to a religious holiday or due to illness (and provide verification of a visit from the medical center), a makeup exam may be scheduled with the professor. If the makeup is taken after the originally scheduled exam, then the makeup exam will be somewhat more difficult than the original exam due to the additional time you will have to study.

## **12 Classroom Behavior**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior and the Student Code of Conduct.

## **13 Honor Code**

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-735-2273). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code Council and will receive a failing grade for the course. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at the Honor Code Office website.

## **14 Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation**

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation against or by any employee or

student. CUs Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibits sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking or related retaliation. CU Boulders Discrimination and Harassment Policy prohibits discrimination, harassment or related retaliation based on race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct under either policy should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation can be found at the OIEC website.