

Economics 4616: Labor Economics

Fall 2016

MWF 11:00AM-11:50 AM

Room: ECON 119

Class Website through Desire2Learn (D2L): <https://learn.colorado.edu/>

No Class: Sep 5 (Labor Day), Nov 21-25 (Fall Break)

Professor Francisca Antman

Office: Economics 222

Office Hours: MWF 9:20-9:55 AM, 11:55 AM-12:20 PM

Email: francisca.antman@colorado.edu (preferred method of contact)

Course Description

In this class we will study the labor market, focusing on supply and demand factors that determine labor allocation and remuneration. We will also explore topics at the heart of modern labor economics including human capital and household production decisions as well as the effects of unions, tax policy, and immigration on the labor market.

Prerequisites: Economics 3070 (Intermediate Microeconomic Theory).

Textbook: George Borjas, *Labor Economics*, McGraw Hill, 2010. This is the 5th edition, but other editions are likely to be acceptable as well. Unless otherwise noted, you are expected to understand the material as presented in class, so you should use your lecture notes as a guide when reviewing the text. If you would like to use another edition, it is your responsibility to make sure you cover any differences between your edition and the material presented in class.

Grading

Midterm 1: 25%

Midterm 2: 25%

Final Exam (cumulative): 40%

Homework, In-class Exercises, Attendance & Participation: 10%

Class Policies

The text covers far more material than will be covered in class and I will present material in class that is not in the textbook, so it is in your interest to come to class. You will be responsible for material covered in lectures and on assignments unless otherwise mentioned in class or noted by email or on the course website. I will also assign articles from other sources that I would like you to read for class discussion. These assignments will generally be announced in class beforehand, so again, it is in your interest to come to class.

Throughout the course, we will do exercises that will help prepare you for exams. These exercises will be posted on the course website along with questions that relate to some of the articles assigned for reading. Please do your best to prepare your own responses to these questions prior to class so that we may proceed to discuss your answers as a group. I may collect your responses to the discussion questions and exercises at random points throughout the course. While these assignments may not be formally graded, I will count your level of effort on these exercises along

with your attendance and potentially also your participation (e.g. answering questions posed to the class) throughout the course. You will be given the opportunity to make up for up to two lost participation points at the end of the term. I may also present exam questions drawn from our class discussions.

There is no excuse for missing an exam unless there is a documented medical or family emergency. Note that you are required to submit documentation of any emergency. In all other cases, failure to take an exam will result in a zero for that exam. If a legitimate emergency arises, other exams will be re-weighted. No make-up exams will be given. If you foresee any legitimate conflict with the dates of the assignments or exams, please see me as soon as possible.

If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining notes on the material we covered from another classmate. You are welcome to visit my office hours to discuss the material you missed, but not before you have gone over the material yourself through notes and the textbook.

Other Policies

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Injuries](#) guidelines under the Quick Links at the [Disability Services website](#) and discuss your needs with me.

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please review the course schedule at the beginning of the semester and see me as soon as possible regarding any conflicts due to religious observances.

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 differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. 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](#).

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. CU's Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibits sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking or related retaliation. CU Boulder's 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](#).

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [academic integrity policy](#) of the institution. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council (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 as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at honorcode.colorado.edu.

Economics 4616-001 Tentative Course Outline, Fall 2016

Note that the dates listed below are a rough guide to the timeline of the course. We may move through the material somewhat faster or slower than presented below. You should come to class to stay updated on the progress of the course.

Week	Dates	Material
1	Aug 22-26	Intro to Labor Economics (ch.1) Labor Supply (ch. 2) -- To work or not to work? How many hours?
2	8/29-9/2	Labor Supply (ch. 2) -- Income & substitution effects (Discuss Articles 1*)
3	Sep 7-9	Labor Supply (ch.2), continued --Estimating labor supply elasticity --Effects of welfare programs on labor supply. (Discuss Articles 2*)
4	Sep 12-16	Topics in Labor Supply (ch 2 continued plus noted selections) --Life-cycle and Retirement Age (in class notes, 3-3 in 4 th ed.). --Household production (9-12 in 5 th ed.) Fertility (2-14 in 5 th ed.) (Discuss articles 3*)
5	Sep 19-23	Labor Demand (ch. 3) (Discuss articles 4*) --Employment decision in short-run and long-run
6	Sep 26-30	Labor Demand (ch.3 continued) --Substitution & scale effects --Employment effects of minimum wage
7	Oct 3-7 Fri 10/7	Midterm 1 in class MT1 Review of Solutions in class
8	Oct 10-14	Labor Market Equilibrium (ch. 4) --Efficiency. Equilibrium across markets. --Payroll taxes & subsidies. (Discuss articles 5*)
9	Oct 17-21	Labor Market Equilibrium (ch. 4 continued) -- Mandated benefits. (Discuss articles 6*) --Employment & wage effects of immigration. (Discuss articles 7*)
10	Oct 24-28	Labor Market Equilibrium (ch.4 continued) --Monopsony, Monopoly, and Deadweight Loss.
11	10/31-11/4 Fri 11/4	Midterm 2 in class MT2 Review of Solutions in class
12	Nov 7-11	Compensating Wage Differentials (ch.5) --Supply & Demand for Risky Jobs. Hedonic wage function. --Job Amenities. Health benefits.
13	Nov 14-18	Human Capital (ch.6) --Present value calculations and the schooling decision. (Discuss articles 8*) --Signaling model
14	Nov 21-25	No Classes—Fall Break
15	11/28-12/2	Labor Unions (ch.10) --Decision to join a union --Monopoly Unions, Efficiency Loss (Discuss articles 9*)
16	Dec 5-9	Review for Final Exam In-class exercises

WED DEC 14 Final Exam (cumulative) 7:30-10:00PM

*See course website for discussion articles and questions to prepare for class

*Specific dates for discussion will be announced in class