Economics 4616: Labor Economics
Spring 2015
MWF 10:00AM-10:50 AM
Room: ECON 117
Class Website through Desire2Learn (D2L): https://learn.colorado.edu/
No Class: 1/19 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday), 3/23-3/27 (Spring Break)

Professor Francisca Antman
Office: Economics 102
Office Hours: MWF 12:00-1:00PM and by appointment
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 government 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 the
4th edition is 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
Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal 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. See full details at www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please provide me with 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 under Quick Links at Disability Services website (http://disabilityservices.colorado.edu/) and discuss your needs with me.

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 term so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at
http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html   and at
http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

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the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. (Regent Law, Article 10, amended 11/8/2001). CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at http://hr.colorado.edu/dh/

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at http://honorcode.colorado.edu

Economics 4616-001 Tentative Course Outline, Spring 2015

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	Jan 12-16	Intro to Labor Economics (ch.1) Labor Supply (ch. 2) -- To work or not to work? How many hours?
2	Mon 1/19	No Class MLK, Jr. Day
	Jan 21-23	Labor Supply (ch. 2) -- Income & substitution effects (Discuss Articles 1*)
3	Jan 26-30	Labor Supply (ch.2), continued --Estimating labor supply elasticity --Effects of welfare programs on labor supply. (Discuss Articles 2*)
4	Feb 2-6	Topics in Labor Supply (ch 2 continued plus noted selections) -- Life-cycle and Retirement Age (in class notes, 3-3 in 4e.). -- Household production. (9-12 in 5e.) Fertility (2-14 in 5e.) (Discuss articles 3*)
5	Mon 2/9	Labor Market Statistics & Employment Situation (Discuss articles 4*)
	Feb 11-13	Labor Demand (ch. 3) --Employment decision in short-run and long-run
6	Feb 16-20	Labor Demand (ch.3 continued) --Substitution & scale effects --Employment effects of minimum wage
7	Feb 23-27	Midterm 1 Preparation, Exam, and Solutions Review
	Wed 2/25	**Midterm 1 in class** MT1 Review of Solutions in class
8	Mar 2-6	Labor Market Equilibrium (ch. 4) --Efficiency. Equilibrium across markets. --Payroll taxes & subsidies. (Discuss articles 5*)
9	Mar 9-13	Labor Market Equilibrium (ch. 4 continued) -- Mandated benefits. (Discuss articles 6*) --Employment & wage effects of immigration. (Discuss articles 7*)
10	Mar 16-20	Labor Market Equilibrium (ch.4 continued) --Monopsony, Monopoly, and Deadweight Loss.
11	Mar 23-27	No Classes Spring Break
12	3/30-4/3	Compensating Wage Differentials (ch.5) --Supply & Demand for Risky Jobs. Hedonic wage function. **--**Job Amenities. Health benefits.
13	Apr 6-10	Midterm 2 Preparation, Exam, and Solutions Review
	Wed 4/8	**Midterm 2 in class** MT2 Review of Solutions in class
14	Apr 13-17	Human Capital (ch.6) --Present value calculations and the schooling decision. (Discuss articles 8*) --Signaling model
15	Apr 20-24	Human Capital continued (ch.6) --Discussion: The value of a higher education
16	4/27-5/1	Review for Final Exam In-class exercises

SUN MAY 3   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