

# ECON 4616 - Labor Economics

Spring 2017  
T-TH 9:30AM-10:45AM

Instructor: Professor Richard Mansfield  
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Office: 04B Economics Building  
Office Hours: Wednesday 11:00AM - 12:00PM, 1:00PM - 2:00 PM

January 10, 2017

## 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

Students will complete weekly problem sets designed to reinforce and expand upon the topics covered in class. Problem sets will be due at the start of class each Tuesday, starting in the second week of class. Scores on these problem sets will comprise 10% of each student's grade. Late problem sets will not be accepted, but each student's lowest score will be dropped. Students are permitted to work together in small groups, but each student must submit his/her own write-up of the problem set. Handing in identical problem sets will result in zeros for all those submitting the identical problem sets.

There will be two in-class midterm examinations (tentative dates: February 23rd and March 23rd). 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 the exams. The final 10% of each student's grade will be based on classroom attendance and participation. The final exam will take place Wednesday, May 10th from 1:30PM to 4:00PM.

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.

## 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 17th/19th	Introducing the Economic Model& Perfect Competition	Ch. 1
Jan 31st/Feb 1st	Perfect Competition & Intro. to Labor Demand	Ch. 2 & 3
Feb 7th/9th	Labor Demand with Competitive Markets	Ch. 3 & 4
Feb 14th/16th	Labor Demand with Frictions	Ch. 5
Feb 21st/23rd	Review & <b>1st Midterm Exam</b>	Ch. 1-5
Feb 28th/Mar 2nd	Static and Household Labor Supply	Ch. 6 & 7
Mar 7th/9th	Intertemporal Labor Supply	Ch. 7
Mar 14th/16th	Compensating Wage Differentials	Ch. 8
Mar 21st/23rd	Review & <b>2nd Midterm Exam</b>	Ch. 6-8
Mar 28th/30th	Spring Break	None
Apr 4th/6th	Human Capital	Ch. 9
Apr 11th/13th	Wage Contracts & Performance Incentives	Ch. 11
Apr 25th/27th	Unemployment & Job Search	Ch. 14
May 2nd/4th	Discrimination & Review	Ch. 12
May 10th	<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. 24th. 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 Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to the professor a letter from Disability Services by the end of the second week of class so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by email at [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto: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 the professor.

## 9 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, February 10th.

## **10 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 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.

## **11 Honor Code**

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](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 as well as academic sanctions from the professor. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at <http://honorcode.colorado.edu>.

## **12 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. 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.