

Economics 4616-001: Labor Economics

Fall 2007

MWF 9-9:50AM

Room: Economics 119

Class Website through CULearn: <https://culearn.colorado.edu/>

No Class: 9/3 (Labor Day), 11/19-11/23 (Fall Break)

Professor Francisca Antman

Office: Economics 14b

Office Hours: Monday 11AM-noon, Thursday 1-3PM, and by appointment

Phone: (303) 492-8872

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.

Textbook: George Borjas, *Labor Economics*, McGraw Hill, 2008. (4th edition)

If you would like to use a previous edition, it is your responsibility to make sure you cover any differences between the two editions that are relevant to our class.

Prerequisite: Econ 3070 (Intermediate Micro Theory).

Grading

Midterm 1: 20%

Midterm 2: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

Homework 1: 10%

Homework 2: 10%

In-class Exercises/Class Participation: 10%

Class Policies

The text covers more material than will be covered in class and we will discuss 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 unless otherwise mentioned in class or noted by email or on the course website. Occasionally, I will also make available articles from other sources that I would like for you to read for class discussion.

Throughout this class, we will do in-class exercises that will help prepare you for homework and exams while also encouraging you to think on your feet, work in groups, and possibly present your work to the class. These exercises will not be formally graded, but I will count your level of participation in these exercises along with your participation in class discussions (e.g. answering questions posed to the class) in your final grade as indicated above. Due to the short

period between the second midterm and the final exam, we will do in-class exercises on specified dates in lieu of an additional homework assignment. On these dates, I will be taking attendance.

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 at least two weeks beforehand or as soon as possible.

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

Homework is due in class at the beginning of lecture on the dates specified. Following a 15-minute grace period, your grade will fall by 20% for every day that the assignment is late (with a zero being the minimum obtainable score). This means that if the assignment is due at 9AM and you turn it in at 10AM and you got 95/100, it will be recorded as 75/100. You may collaborate with your classmates on homework, but each student must submit their own homework and provide the names of any students with which he collaborated on the first page of the assignment. It is important that you demonstrate that you are thinking independently as I will compare your answers to those of other students in the class.

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 see me at least two weeks prior to any conflicts due to religious observances. See full details at www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Other Policies

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty has the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. See policies at www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html
www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

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; 303-725-2273). 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 www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/

The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combinations of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at: <http://www.colorado.edu/odh/>

The following is a tentative course outline, which is by no means an exhaustive list of all that we will cover. Depending on how quickly we move through the material, I may revise it and repost it on the course website. I will bring this to your attention if this is the case. It is to your benefit to read the chapters indicated before the lectures in which they will be discussed.

Week	Dates	Material
1	Aug 27-31	Intro to Labor Economics (ch.1), Labor Supply (ch.2) --To work or not to work? How many hours?
	Sep 3	No Class--Labor Day
2		Labor Supply, continued --Effects of welfare programs on labor supply
3	Sep 10-14	Topics in Labor Supply (ch.3) --Household production and fertility
4	Sep 17-21	Labor Demand (ch.4) --Employment decision in short-run and long-run
5	Sep 24-28	Labor Demand, continued --Employment effects of Minimum Wages Wed, Sep 26 HW1 due at beginning of lecture
6	Oct 1-5	Labor Market Equilibrium (ch.5) --Payroll taxes & subsidies, Immigration Fri, Oct 5 Midterm 1 in class
7	Oct 8-12	Compensating Wage Differentials (ch.6) --Hedonic wage function
8	Oct 15-19	Human Capital (ch.7) --The schooling decision, schooling as a signal
9	Oct 22-26	Human Capital, continued --On-the-job training
10	Oct 29-Nov 2	Inequality (ch.8) --Measuring inequality, explaining rise in inequality
11	Nov 5-9	Mobility & Migration (ch.9) --Decision to migrate, Roy Model Wed, Nov 7 HW2 due at beginning of lecture
12	Nov 12-16	Discrimination (ch.10) --Employer discrimination, measuring discrimination Fri, Nov 16 Midterm 2 in class
13	Nov 19-23	No Class--Fall Break & Thanksgiving
14	Nov 26-30	Labor Unions (ch.11) --Decision to join a union, union wage effects Fri, Nov 30 In-class exercises in lieu of HW
15	Dec 3-7	Incentive Pay (ch.12) --Alternative methods of remuneration, efficiency wages Fri, Dec 7 In-class exercises in lieu of HW
16	Dec 10-14	Unemployment (ch.13) --Steady-state unemployment, job search Fri, Dec 14 Final Exam Review

Sat, Dec 15 Final Exam 1:30-4PM