

Economics 4616-001: Labor Economics

Fall 2010

MWF 1:00-1:50 PM

Room: EDUC 231

Class Website through CULearn:

<https://culearn.colorado.edu/>

No Class: 9/6 (Labor Day); 11/22-11/26 (Fall Break)

Professor Francisca Antman

Office: Economics 14b

Office Hours: Monday 2:00-4:30PM, Wednesday 10:00-10:30AM, 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.

Prerequisites: Economics 3070 (Intermediate Microeconomic Theory).

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

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%

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 unless otherwise mentioned in class or noted by email or on the course website. Occasionally, I will also assign articles from other sources that I would like you to read for class discussion.

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.

Throughout the semester, we will do in-class exercises that will help prepare you for exams while also encouraging you to think on your feet, work in groups, and possibly present your work to the class. These exercises may not be formally graded, but I will count your level of involvement in these exercises along with your attendance and participation (e.g. answering questions posed to the class) at regular intervals throughout the course. I may also ask you to search for articles for discussion and answer related questions on articles which illustrate economic problems we have considered in class. You will be given the opportunity to make up for up to two lost participation points by turning in brief response papers to articles discussed in class at the end of the semester. I may also present exam questions drawn from our class discussions.

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

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>

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, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, 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. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://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; 303-735-2273). 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://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status 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, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

Economics 4616-001 Tentative Course Outline, Fall 2010

Week	Dates	Material
1	Aug 23-27	Intro to Labor Economics (ch.1) Labor Supply (ch. 2) -- To work or not to work? How many hours?
2	8/30-9/3	Labor Supply (ch. 2) -- Income & substitution effects
	F 9/3	Labor Market Friday. Unemployed & discouraged workers. (Discuss articles 1*)
	Sep 6	No Class--Labor Day
3	Sep 8-10	Labor Supply (ch.2), continued --Estimating labor supply elasticity --Effects of welfare programs on labor supply. Earned Income Tax Credit.
4	Sep 13-17	Topics in Labor Supply (ch.3) -- Retirement. -- Household production. Fertility. (Discuss articles 2*)
5	Sep 20-24	Labor Demand (ch. 4 except 4-6 and 4-12) --Employment decision in short-run and long-run
6	9/27-10/1	Labor Demand, continued --Substitution & scale effects --Employment effects of minimum wage
7	Oct 4-8	Midterm 1 Preparation, Exam, and Solutions Review
	W Oct 6	Midterm 1 in class
	F 10/8	MT1 Review of Solutions in class
8	Oct 11-15	Labor Market Equilibrium (ch. 5) --Efficiency. Equilibrium across markets. --Payroll taxes & subsidies. (Discuss articles 3*)
9	Oct 18-22	Labor Market Equilibrium, continued -- Mandated benefits. (Discuss articles 4*) --Employment & wage effects of immigration. (Discuss articles 5*)
10	Oct 25-29	Labor Market Equilibrium, continued --Monopsony, Monopoly, and Deadweight Loss.
11	Nov 1-5	Compensating Wage Differentials (ch.6 except 6-3, 6-4) --Supply & Demand for Risky Jobs. Hedonic wage function. --Job Amenities. Health benefits.
12	Nov 8-12	Human Capital (ch.7 except 7-6 through 7-8, and 7-10 through 7-13) --Present value calculations and the schooling decision. (Discuss articles 6*) --Signaling model
13	Nov 15-19	Midterm 2 Preparation, Exam, and Solutions Review
	W Nov 17	Midterm 2 in class
	F 11/19	MT2 Review of Solutions in class
14	Nov 22-26	No Class--Fall Break & Thanksgiving
15	11/29-12/3	Labor Unions (ch.11: 11-2 through 11-4) --Decision to join a union --Monopoly Unions, Efficiency Loss (Discuss articles 7*)
16	Dec 6-10	Review for Final Exam In-class exercises

TUE 12/14 Final Exam 1:30-4PM

*See course website for discussion articles