ECON 3100-02: Labor Economics

**Course Syllabus**

**Spring-2012**

**Instructor: Behroz Baraghoshi**

**Department:** Economics

**Department information:** OSH 308, (801) 581-7481

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Prerequisite:** None

**Class Hours:** 11:50am – 1:10pm, M and W

**Location:**  Main Campus, MBH 302

**Office Hours:** 10:50am – 11:50am. M, W or by appointment

**Instructor’s Office:** OSH 376

**E-mail:** [behroz.baraghoshi@economics.utah.edu](mailto:behroz.baraghoshi@economics.utah.edu)

**Course description**  Labor- market economics, wage theory, labor mobility, human-resource development, unionism, collective bargaining, employment, and public policy.

## Course content

The class will be constructed to build up – on the top of principles level of knowledge in microeconomics. The narrative of the course is structured around developing the core concepts (e.g. determination of wages and employment) and techniques (e.g. graphing and regression) that students need to understand the resulting distribution of income among individuals and households. Students will also be encouraged, where possible, to see the connections between theory and actual economic practice.

**Course objectives**

At the end of the semester, students

* will be able to specify functional relationships between wages and employment.
* will be able to understand collective bargaining and its effects on wages and employment.
* will be able to project the macroeconomic outcomes of human- resource development.
* will be able to compare different approaches (e.g. neoclassical vs. institutional) to the evolution of labor market theory.
* will be able to apply their knowledge to real world cases where applicable.

**Course Materials**

Fundamentals of Labor Economics by Hyclak (required), The Economics of Labor Markets by Kaufman and Hotchkiss (optional), and selected papers to be announced in the class.

**Course Outline and Schedule:**

* Week 1 (January 9th and 11th)

Course overview

Syllabus handout

Chapter one

**Topic:** The Study of Labor Economics

Week 2 (January 16th and 18th)

No class on Monday

Chapter two

Assignment

**Topic:** Martin Luther King Day andthe Demand for Labor

Week 3 (January 23rd and 25th)

Chapter 3

Chapter 4

Assignment

**Topic:** Topics in Labor Demand and Labor Force Participation

Week 4 (January 30th and February 1st)

Chapter 5

Chapter 6

Assignment

**Topic:** The Supply of Labor and Human Capital Analysis

Week 5 (February 6th and 8th)

Chapter 7

Chapter 8

Assignment

**Topic:** Labor Market Equilibrium and Information and Job Search

Week 6 (February 13th and 15th)

Chapter 9

Chapter 10

Assignment

**Topic:** Monopsony and Minimum Wages and Internal Labor Market

Week 7 (February 20th and 22nd)

No class On Monday

Chapter 11

Assignment

**Topic:** President’s Day and Personal Economics

Week 8 (February 27th and 29th)

Chapter 12

Chapter 13

Assignment

**Topic:** Unions and collective bargaining and Labor Market Discrimination

Week 9 (March 5th and 7th)

Review for Midterm

Midterm Exam

**Topic:**

Week 10 (March 12th and 14th)

No class on Monday

No class on Wednesday

**Topic:** Spring break week

Week 11 (March 19th and 21st)

Presentation

Chapter 14

Assignment

**Topic:** Unemployment

Week 12 (March 26th and 28th)

Chapter 15

Presentation

Assignment

**Topic:** Wage and Income Inequality and Poverty

Week 13 (April 2nd and 4th)

Guest speaker

Documentary

**Topic:** Chamber of Commerce and the Corporation

Week 14(April 9th and 11th)

Guest speaker

Documentary

**Topic:** Afl-Cio and Fire in the hole

Week 15 (April 16th and 18th)

Discussion

Discussion

Clicker response system

**Topic:** Student observation of speeches and documentary

Week 16 (April 23th and 25th)

Research paper due and student standing

Final review

**Topic:** Union Membership and collective bargaining and Unemployment

* Week 17 (May 2nd) Final Exam is Wednesday May 2nd 10:30am -12:30pm

**Course Website**:

I will post important announcements, course materials and grades on CANVAS.

**Homework and presentation:**

Homework will be posted on web-ct on Wednesdays and is due the following Monday. . I will announce the posting of the homework in the class. Research presentation has 15 points and I will post the details on research presentation as soon as I divide the class into groups.

**Grading**:

Research presentation 15 Points

Homework 15 Points

Midterm 25 Points

Final Exam 35 Points

Participation 10

**Grade scale**

Your final grade will be determined from the following scale:

A Excellent 93% and above

A- Excellent 90% to 92%

B + Good 87% to 89%

B Good 83% to 86%

B- Good 80% to 82%

C+ Standard 77% to 79%

C Standard 73% to 76%

C- Standard 70% to 72%

D+ Substandard 65% to 69%

D Substandard 60% to 64%

D- Substandard 55% to 59%

**Disability Policy:**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services (CDS), 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

**Note:**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus. Any necessary changes to the syllabus will be announced in class in advance of their practice.

You can work in groups for homework. All homework and term paper are to be submitted in hard copy in class. Please make sure to write your name on your assignment, before you submit them to me.

If you cannot take an exam at the scheduled time, it is your responsibilities to let me know ASAP. A make-up exam can be taken at the Testing Center (Student Bldg) within 48 hours of the original scheduled time.

In order to incorporate fair grading, late work on the assignment will only be accepted up to one day after the due date at an automatic 50% loss of credit. No email submission of homework or papers is accepted.

If you have special needs, please inform me of how I can assist you as soon as possible.

**U of U Withdrawal Policy:**

The last day to drop this class is Wednesday January 18. The last day to withdraw from the class is Friday, March 2.