

Economics 410 – Labor Economics, Fall 2017

Professor: Martin Shields

Meeting times: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-1:45

Office: C-323 Clark

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 pm- 3:00 pm and by appointment

OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

The goal in this class is to improve your critical thinking skills as economists. In particular, you will be better able to apply economic theory to understand how labor markets function. In addition, you will have an improved understanding about how economists use data to test theories. Important topics include the determination of wages, how individuals allocate their time to labor and leisure, how businesses decide to hire and fire people, the economics of labor market discrimination, and how people decide how much education to get. Special attention will be paid to analyzing data to better understand important labor market issues.

PREREQUISITES

It is assumed that you *know* the material covered in Econ 306.

HOMEWORK

There will be approximately 8 homework assignments. I will announce in class when each assignment is posted to Canvas and when it is due. Answers will be posted online shortly after the assignment is due.

Important: Homework is due at the beginning of class. If you cannot come to class on the day that an assignment is due it must be turned in to **the drop-off box outside my office** by before class begins!! Late assignments will receive a zero.

EXAMS

There will be four equally weighted exams. None will be cumulative. Tentative dates are:

- Thursday September 14—Chapters 1-3 (in-class)
- Thursday October 12—Chapters 4-6 (in-class)
- Thursday November 9—TBD (in class)
- Wednesday December 13—TBD (6:20 pm)

TEXTBOOK

Borjas, George. (2015). *Labor Economics*. 7th edition. McGraw Hill. (6th edition is a pretty good substitute).

GRADES

Exams: Four 100 point exams, each accounting for 15 percent of your grade. Exams are non-cumulative.

Homework: as assigned, accounting in total for 40 percent of your grade.

Attendance and participation is expected. I will not use the +/- system.

The grading scale is

| | |
|---|-----------|
| A | 445–500 |
| B | 390-444 |
| C | 345-389 |
| D | 276-344 |
| F | Below 276 |

If you expect to miss an exam, I expect you to let me know as soon as possible so we can find an alternative time. In general, with an acceptable reason, such as a university-sanctioned activity, you may be able to arrange to take an exam or submit an assignment early, but never late. If you miss an exam due to a sudden health issue or an emergency, let me know as soon as you are able. In such instances, be prepared to provide an authorized reason for missing the exam.

ACCOMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you require special accommodation to complete the requirements of this course, please provide documentation and verification from the office of Resources for Disabled Students (see <http://rds.colostate.edu/>).

ATTENDANCE AND COURSE WORKLOAD

Attendance is not required, but is expected. If you do show up, your peers and I appreciate that you fully devote your attention the classroom, and that you do not disrupt our learning environment. This includes not distracting others via cell phone or laptop use, except as related to in-class learning.

Overall, students should expect to dedicate 8 hours per week to this class, including classroom time (2.5 hours). Expect to read 2-3 hours per week, with the remaining time spent on the homework.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

This course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy of the General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. As stated in university policy, "Any student found responsible for having engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to academic penalty and/or University disciplinary action." (General Catalog 2011-2012, 1.6, p.8). Any academic dishonesty in this course may result in a grade of "F" for the course and may be reported to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services.

Please be aware that the General Catalog specifically identifies the following examples of academic dishonesty: cheating in the classroom, plagiarism, unauthorized possession or disposition of academic materials, falsification, and facilitation of cases of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is defined as follows:

"Plagiarism includes the copying of language, structure, ideas, or thoughts of another, and representing them as one's own without proper acknowledgment. Examples include a submission of purchased research papers as one's own work; paraphrasing and/or quoting material without properly documenting the source." (General Catalog 2011-2012, 1.6, p. 8).

Note: I consider use and/or possession of the textbook's "solutions manual" as academic dishonesty.