The University of Oklahoma
Department of Economics

Econ 3513 - Labor Problems

Spring 2018

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Teaching Assistants:[1]
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Class Meetings: January 16 - May 4, 2018 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.[2]
Time and Classroom: 10:30 AM - 11:20 AM at Adams Hall, Classroom No. 355.

Course Description
This is an intermediate-level Economics course, in which we examine the labor market. The underlying learning objective of this course is to improve students' critical thinking skills in a wide range of topics that relate to the functioning of labor market. To achieve this goal, this course is designed to introduce selected theoretical tools that are employed to model the allocation of labor forces. It also provides a survey of labor market institutions. Lastly, it introduces some empirical facts that relate to labor market to improve students' understanding of how labor forces are allocated in the United States. This course begins with modeling labor market equilibrium. Then, selected issues such as compensating wage differentials, human capital, and wage structure are discussed. Following these discussions, this course puts particular emphasis on the international mobility of labor force.

Prerequisite
Econ 1113 and Econ 1123.

The Required E-textbook
Labor Economics (7th ed.) by George J. Borjas
ISBN: 9781259359668
Registration link: http://connect.mheducation.com/class/econ3513spring2018
How to purchase the required e-textbook?
You have two options: 1.) you may purchase this through the OU Bookstore for about $140; or 2.) you may purchase through McGraw Hill Education's website for about $105.[3]
As long as you have access to the required e-textbook AND Connect platform, I do not

[1] If you have any questions, feel free and send me an email first. Use tabrizy@ou.edu. Then, either one of my assistants or I will get back to you.
[2] There will be no lectures during Spring Vacation (03/17-03/25).
[3] When you register through the link for your section (see above), you are given the option of buy this product directly from McGraw Hill Education.

care which option you choose. Make your choice given your budget.

Course Website
The main websites is Canvas. From there, you will be directed to a repository on Google, where the lecture materials are kept. You will also be directed to Connect, where the assignments are done.

Course Software
To write the required essay for this course, students may need to use a software to report some basic descriptive statistics and to perform some hypothesis testing. For this, students will be introduced to Stata. They do not need to purchase this software, however, as they have free access to Stata at the Economics Computer Lab.

Assessment
The assessment is based on two exams (50% weight), a number of assignments (20% weight), a short essay (20% weight), and class participation (10% weight):

- The Exams Grade:
  There are two exams. Though the concepts are closely related to each other, the exams are not going to be cumulative. The exams include multiple choice questions. When it comes to final letter grade calculation, the exams have 50% weight. For a given student, 30% weight will be allocated to the exam with higher grade, and 20% weight will be allocated to the exam with lower grade.

- The Assignments:
  There are a number of assigned problems for each chapter. The assignments are usually done on Connect. When it comes to final letter grade calculation, the assignments have 20% weight. For this I consider the average grade for your assignments, where all chapters are equally weighted.

- The Short Essay:
  There is one required essay, which will be turned in at the last day of the lecture series. This essay must be done in groups of two. When it comes to final letter grade calculation, the essay has 20% weights. Coauthors will receive the same grade.

- The Class Participation Grade:
  Students are expected to actively take part in class, which is why I take attendance. For each chapter, there are also a number of assignments that are partly done in class. Your class participation grade contributes to 10% of your final letter grade calculation. If you miss more than six sessions but less than ten, you will receive only 5%. If you miss ten sessions or more, you will receive nothing. If you miss a lecture due to well-justified reasons (e.g., health, job, army, etc.), you will be asked to provide my teaching assistant with a note, justifying your absence.

The sum of your exams, assignments, essay, and class participation grades will determine your final letter grade on a scale where 90 or above is an A and less than 60 is an F. Tests will not be curved, needs based appeals will not be entertained, and grades will be determined in strict accordance with the above policy. Even if you end up with, say, 89.99999, you earned a grade of B.

Some Tips
In what follows, I share some tips on how to succeed in this course:

- Take part in classes. The key concepts are introduced in the lectures. You also get to see the application of those concepts in a number of in-class assignments. We also discuss how those new concepts relate to what we have already learned. This is the most efficient way to learn the concepts of interest and to see their applications.
- Take personal notes during the lectures. I share the materials that I use in class. However, it is very useful if you also keep some personal notes. Keep your notes organized.
- Read the materials that are shared with you in class. The chosen chapters describe the concepts thoroughly while providing lots of examples and real life applications. Take personal notes when you read the materials. Organize your notes.
- To be prepared for the exams, review the lecture presentations, in-class assignments, and your personal notes. Samples of previous exams are also available on Canvas.
- At any stage, feel free to contact me if you have any problems with the concepts or the assignments.

Some Notes
Read the following notes, and let me know, please, should you have any questions:

- My goal is to create a class in which everyone is welcome, included, and able to learn and succeed. Please talk to me if there is something I need to know in order to facilitate a positive and productive learning experience for you.
- If you require an accommodation based on disability, please let me know during the first week of the semester. Also, please bring the authorized documentation, issued by the Disability Resource Center.[4]
- The academic misconduct policy is as stated in the University of Oklahoma Academic Integrity Code.[5] Cheating, for instance, is a very serious violation of the code and will be treated as such. Signing the class roll for someone else or having someone else sign the class roll for you is also considered academic misconduct. Honor yourself, and honor the code.
- You are not allowed to use your laptop computer, tablet, smart phone, or any other electronic gadget during the lectures or exams. They must be turned off, in fact. Please let me know if you require an electronic gadget given a disability. I will certainly allow you to use the required device.

[4] You may reach this center via phone. Voice: (405) 325-3852; TDD: (405) 325-4173
[5] A student's guide to academic integrity is available at: https://integrity.ou.edu/students.html

Course Outline[6]

- An Introduction to Labor Economics (Chapter 1)
  Lectures: 01/17 - 01/24; The due date for assignments: 01/02 at 11:59 PM
- Labor Supply (Chapters 2)
  Lectures: 01/26 - 02/05; The due date for assignments: 02/09 at 11:59 PM
- Labor Demand (Chapters 3)
  Lectures: 02/07 - 02/16; The due date for assignments: 02/23 at 11:59 PM
- Equilibrium in Labor Market (Chapters 4)
  Lectures: 02/19 - 02/28; The due date for assignments: 03/09 at 11:59 PM
- Labor Supply, Demand, and Equilibrium - Concluding Remarks
  Lecture: 03/02
- Stata lab sessions, along with a Brief Survey of Descriptive Statistics (my notes), Hypothesis Testing (my notes), and Regression Analyses (Chapter 1 Appendix)[7]
  Computer lab sessions: 03/05 - 03/09
- Midterm exam (Ch. 1, 2, 3, and 4)
  Monday, 03/12 (10:30 - 11:20, Adams Hall 355)
- Compensating Wage Differentials (Chapter 5)
  Lectures: 03/14 - 03/30; The due date for assignments: 04/06 at 11:59 PM
- Human Capital (Chapter 6)
  Lectures: 04/02 - 04/11; The due date for assignments: 04/20 at 11:59 PM
- The Wage Structure (Chapter 7)
  Lectures: 04/13 - 04/20; The due date for assignments: 04/27 at 11:59 PM
- Immigration (selected readings)
  Lectures: 04/23 - 04/27; no assignments
- Unemployment (selected readings)
  Lectures: 04/30 and 05/02 no assignments
- Concluding Remarks
  Lectures: 05/04
- Final exam (The main focus is on Ch. 5, 6, and 7 as well as selected topics in Statistical Inference, Immigration, and Unemployment.)
  Wednesday, 05/09 (8:00 - 10:00, Adams Hall 355)

[6] I reserve the right to make changes in the course outline.

[7] My notes on descriptive statistics and hypothesis testing could be found under lecture presentations for Chapters 3, 7, 8, 9, and 10 at http://saleh.oucreate.com/stats/

connect

student registration information

course

ECON-3513-001: Labor Problems (Spring 2018)
with LearnSmart

instructor

Saleh Tabrizy

section

Library Course for Borjas: Labor Economics, 7e (Spring 2018)

registration dates

01/15/18 - 02/07/18

online registration instructions

Go to the following web address and click the **"register now"** button.

http://connect.mheducation.com/class/econ3513spring2018

This is a unique address for
Library Course for Borjas: Labor Economics, 7e (Spring 2018)

Having trouble registering?
Get help here: **http://bit.ly/StudentRegistration**

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