

Syllabus

Labor Economics, Econ 274

Winter 2012

Time: Tuesday & Thursday - 10:10 AM to 11:55 AM

Classroom: CMC 209

Instructor: Muhammad Faress Bhuiyan

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Office Hours: Monday 2 PM to 4 PM, Tuesday & Friday 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Course Description: This course explores issues of labor market and relevant public policies through the lens of economic theory. A combination of theoretical models and empirical methods will be used to study (1) household decisions to supply labor, migrate, acquire human capital, (2) firms' decision to hire labor based on different factor prices, production technology, output prices (3) the determination of wages depending on market structure, and (4) the role of unions, minimum wage laws, wage discrimination based on gender and race, education as a signaling device, and labor market in developing countries.

Pre-requisites: Economics 110 and 111

Textbook: Ronald G. Ehrenberg and Robert S. Smith, *Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy*, 10th edition,.

Supplemental readings/articles will be required for some chapters. These articles may be discussed during classes and students **will be** tested on the material in the midterm and final examination irrespective of whether it is covered in class.

Course evaluation: Evaluation will be based on one mid-term and one final exam (together worth 60% of your grade), debate + debate paper (worth 10% + 10% of your grade), five quizzes (worth 10% of your grade), and four assignments (worth 10% of your grade). Students who receive a higher absolute grade in the final will have 40% of the weight assigned to the final and 20% to the midterm. Similarly, students who receive a higher absolute grade in their midterm will have 40% of the weight assigned to the midterm and 20% to the final examination. You will have **at least** a week for each assignment – the due date for the assignment will be indicated on the assignment. If you fail to hand in an assignment, you will receive a score of 0 on that assignment. Late assignments will not be accepted. The worst grade of the problem sets will be dropped. The quiz with the lowest grade will be dropped. There are no make-up exams in this class. If, for any reason at all, you miss the mid-term exam, the weight of the mid-term exam will go onto the final exam. The dates for the mid-term and final exams are already indicated on the course outline. Please note that the final exam is *cumulative*.

Extra Reading: Students will be asked to read certain journal articles on their own. The articles will be made known as the course progresses.

Detailed Schedule				Readings	Quiz & PS
January	Thursday	5	Introduction	1	
	Tuesday	10	Overview of Labor Market	1,2	
	Thursday	12	Demand For Labor	3	QZ 1
	Tuesday	17	Labor Demand Elasticities	4	
	Thursday	19	Frictions in the Labor Market	5	PS 1 Due
	Tuesday	24	Supply of Labor	6	QZ 2
	Thursday	26	Household Production	7	
February	Tuesday	31	Midterm Review & Catch Up		PS 2 Due
	Thursday	2	Midterm (in class)		
			MIDTERM BREAK		
	Tuesday	7	Midterm Solution	8	
	Thursday	9	Compensating Wage Differentials	8,9	
	Tuesday	14	Worker Mobility: Migr. & Turnover	9,10	QZ 3
	Thursday	16	Worker Mobility: Migr. & Turnover	10	
	Tuesday	21	Debates: Topics II and III		QZ 4
	Thursday	23	Gender Race Ethnicity	12	PS 3 Due
	Tuesday	28	Union & Labor Market	13	QZ 5
March	Thursday	1	Inequality in Earnings	15	
	Tuesday	6	Debates: Topics III, IV & V		PS 4 Due
	Thursday	8	Review & Catch Up		
	Monday	12	Final Exam (8:30 AM to 11:00 AM)		

Debate Topics

- I Minimum Wage Law
- II Unemployment Benefits
- III Outsourcing
- IV Labor Unions
- V Banning Child Labor