

Labor Economics
(ECP 3203-01)
Spring 2001

Instructor: David Macpherson
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Course Overview:

The objective of this course is to familiarize the student with theories of how labor markets work and empirical evidence that either supports or rejects these theories. Special attention will be given to the impact that public policies have upon the labor market. Some of the topics to be considered include: unemployment, labor supply and demand, compensating wage differentials, unions, human capital investment, and discrimination.

Required Texts: *Contemporary Labor Economics* by Campbell McConnell, Stanley Brue, David Macpherson, Fifth Edition, 1999

Course packet for ECP3203 at Target Copy

Lectures: TR 2:00-3:15 49 Bellamy Building

Office Hours:

I will hold office hours on Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 P.M.-2:00 P.M. in 262 Bellamy. These hours are reserved for students, so do not hesitate to spend as much of this time as you need getting help. Outside of these times, I will be happy to talk with you if I am not busy. If I am busy, I will tell you so and make arrangements to talk to you at another time.

E-mail:

Feel free to send e-mail to me at dmacpher@mailier.fsu.edu. I am very conscientious about replying to e-mail. You will generally get a prompt reply, even on weekends.

Course Web Page

The course web page has been installed at the address: <http://garnet.acns.fsu.edu/~dmacpher>. It has several features and is described later in the syllabus.

Grading:

There will be two midterms (25% each), daily assignments (20% in total) and a comprehensive final exam (30%). The lowest three scores on the daily assignments will be thrown out. Since your lowest three daily assignment scores are dropped, there will be no make-up assignments. Questions about grading must be resolved within one week after the exams are returned. Your final grade will depend solely on the total points you receive on the exams and quizzes. *There is no extra credit work available to compensate for poor exam scores.* The standard 90-80-70-60 grade cutoffs will be used to assign grades. Plus and minus grades will also be used.

Exams:

The exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer/essay questions. Dates for each exam are given below. The final will be drawn from all chapters listed below. You are responsible for all of the reading assignments, whether or not they are discussed in class.

Exam dates:

There will be 3 exams:

1. Thursday, February 8, in class
2. Thursday, March 22, in class.
3. Monday, April 23, 10:00-12:00

Make-ups and Attendance:

No make-ups for the daily assignments or exams will be given. If you miss a daily assignment for any reason that becomes your low score which is tossed out. If you miss a midterm for a legitimate reason (e.g. illness), you will be allowed to increase the weight on the final exam. Under special circumstances you may take an exam early (never late). Contact the instructor in advance if you wish to take an exam early. Attendance is not graded directly. However, since some exam material may not be in the book, there tends to be a strong correlation between attendance and performance on the graded exams.

American Disabilities Act Statement:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC); (2) bring a letter to the instructor from SDRC indicating that you need academic accommodations. This should be done within the first week of class.

Honor Code:

Academic dishonesty as it relates to daily assignments and tests in this course will not be tolerated in any form. The Academic Honor system of the Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility to:

- (1) uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work
- (2) refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity.
- (3) foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility.

Put simply, cheating will not be tolerated. If an instance of academic dishonesty takes place, all students involved will receive a zero for that quiz or exam and the grade may not be dropped.

Course Outline		
<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
1	<i>Labor Economics: Introduction and Overview</i>	Chapter 1
1-2	<i>The Theory of Labor Supply</i>	Chapter 2
3	<i>Population, Participation Rates, and Hours of Work</i>	Chapter 3
4	<i>Labor Quality: Investing in Human Capital</i>	Chapter 4
5	<i>The Demand for Labor</i>	Chapter 5
Midterm 1: Chapters 1-5 Date & Time: Thursday, February 8, In Class		
6	<i>Wage Determination and the Allocation of Labor</i>	Chapter 6
7	<i>Alternative Pay Schemes and Labor Efficiency</i>	Chapter 7
8	<i>The Wage Structure</i>	Chapter 8
9	<i>Mobility, Migration, and Efficiency</i>	Chapter 9
10	<i>Labor Unions and Collective Bargaining</i>	Chapter 10
Midterm 2: Chapters 6-10 Date & Time: Thursday, March 22, In Class		
11	<i>Economic Impact of Unions</i>	Chapter 11
12	<i>Government and the Labor Market</i>	Chapter 13
13	<i>Theories of Labor Market Discrimination</i>	Chapter 14
14	<i>Women, Blacks, and the Labor Market</i>	Chapter 15
15	<i>The Personal Distribution of Earnings</i>	Chapter 17
Final: Chapters 1-11, 13-15, and 17 Date & Time: Monday, April 23, 10:00-12:00		

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The course web page at <http://garnet.acns.fsu.edu/~dmacpher> has several features.

Course Announcements

Announcements such as new web page features, changes in exam dates, etc. will be posted.

Powerpoint Presentations

The powerpoint lecture presentations are available in Powerpoint 97 format. In order to view these lectures you will need to download the Powerpoint 97 viewer once (a link is provided). To view the slides correctly, the viewer needs to be in full-screen mode. Otherwise, the graphs will not appear properly. To advance slides or points use a mouse click.

The lectures are also available in handout form in Adobe Acrobat's Portable Document Format (PDF). In order to view these files you will need to download the Acrobat reader software (again a link is provided). The files can be printed out (appropriate space for notes is included).

Bulletin Board.

The page has a bulletin board for this class. I am hoping that it will promote student interaction. If you can help each other over the bulletin board, feel free to do so. I will "jump in" as needed.

Grades

I post grades by your social security number (user name) and the private "code number" selected by you (password). Remember not to include the dashes in your social security number when you enter it in the user name box. The grades file is encrypted to prevent improper access.

Syllabus

It has a copy of the course syllabus