

Syllabus for ECON 3100-070 Course (Labor Economics)

Basic Information:

Section Number: 070

Class time: Tuesday between 6 pm and 8:30 pm.

Class Location: Sandy Campus 119

Contact Information:

Instructor: Kerem Cantekin

e-mail: keremcantekin@gmail.com, u0601066@utah.edu

Office: Cubicle 8, OSH Building 3th Floor, Main Campus

Office Hours: Between 8:30-10 pm on Tuesday in Sandy Campus. I will go home, in case no one shows up in first 15 minutes. So in case you will come late please send me an e-mail. In that case I am going to wait you

Course Overview

Even though in some cases, this can be a fact easy to forget, economic system is mainly based on the work done by billions of people every day throughout the world. Whatever are the other factors, creating them, whatever are their positive or negative effects, every economic indicator can exist only as long as this work done by people continues. However the work done by the people is usually taken as a side issue in contemporary economics. Other issues, like financial parameters like interest rates, or macroeconomic parameters like growth are usually taken as more important parameters, compared with parameters that are directly related to the labor.

Actually any parameter in economics in the end is related to work done by people one way or the other. In this course we will see first of all how within mainstream economics, what economics mean to most people within and outside of the economics field, labor is treated. We will see basic mainstream models, theories and concepts related to labor. This will be the major thing that will be seen in this course. The course however will provide several opportunities for students who want to go beyond the mainstream theoretic lines. The students will be able to see alternative texts, representing both mainstream and non-mainstream theoretical views and several labor market cases. They will also be given the opportunity to make their own research and presentation on a particular case.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, you are expected to know basic labor economics concepts, models and theories within the mainstream labor economics. You are also expected to be able to discuss issues related to labor economics ideally using the knowledge you get in this course.

This course also encourages you to develop your presentation, research and summarizing skills by providing opportunities for students who are willing to take them.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Both white board and power point presentations will be used as a method of teaching.

For self study the book is the primary source, it provides sufficient information that is needed for self study. In addition to the book, lecture slides will be uploaded to the CANVAS.

Assignments can be taken as the major guideline for self study.

In-Class Discussions and CANVAS discussions will be used as an additional method that will provide an opportunity to achieve one of the objectives of the course.

The course will provide additional texts for the students who are interested to learn more.

Students are given an opportunity to write a paper and/or make presentations on cases related to labor economics in class, in the class.

Required Textbook

Title: Fundamentals of Labor Economics Author: Hyclak, Johnes, Thornton Publisher: Houghton Mifflin

Extra Readings and Their Summaries

Except the weeks of 26th of August, 21st of October 2nd of December and 9th of December, each week I will upload 3 to 5 articles to the CANVAS. The articles will be either give more information on the mainstream theories and models, or introduce you models and theories developed by alternative economic schools, or they will be emperical studies or case studies. You won't be required to read them. But you have the option of reading and summarizing them instead of doing the weekly assignment of that week. If you read and summarize the articles, your summary should contain the outline of all articles, the comparisons of the articles (in which way they are similar, which way they are diffirent) and in the end you should have a part where you should write in which way information given in the article is relavent to the current problems in the economic system.

Structure of Class Sessions

Each session will start either with a video, or with a question. After we watch the video or I introduce the question we will have a small discussion. Then I will give background information on the subject we cover. After that if necessary I will give some information on the math we are going to use that day. Then I will cover the main subject of the day. Then we will see examples of some questions I might ask on that subject. Lastly in case we have time we will have a discussion related to the subject we have covered.

Discussions On CANVAS

Except the weeks of 26th of August, 21st of October, 2nd of December and 9th of December, each week on Friday, I am going to open a discussion topic on CANVAS. On weeks when we had an in-class discussion, the CANVAS discussion topic will be the topic we discussed in class. In case you make a contribution to all of these discussions I will give you 5 extra points. However each contribution should be meaningful, contain at least 50 words, and should not contain any insult to any person or to any group or to a nation. You will lose 1 extra point for each discussion you left without any contribution. The CANVAS discussions I opened before 21st of October will be closed at 24th of October. The CANVAS discussions I opened after 21th October will be closed at 12th of December. The CANVAS discussions are created in order to prepare you to the midterm and final. Both in midterm and final, you will have to write an original one page essay on one of the topics discussed on CANVAS. In midterm you will have to write on a topic that was subject of a CANVAS discussion

opened before 21st of October, in final you will have to write on a topic that was subject of a CANVAS discussion opened after 21th of October.

Grading

You will take 20% of your grades from the Assignments, 40% from Midterm, 40% from Final. Note one of your exams can be replaced with the term paper. There is an additional 5% you may get from CANVAS discussions. You can get up to 5 extra points from the in-class presentation you make. In case the average of the class becomes 75 or higher, the letter grades will be A for 90% and above, and for each 10% reduction letter smaller. (A 90%, A- 86,6%, B+ 83,3%, B 80%, B+ 76,6%, C+ 73,3%, C 70%, C- 66,6%, D+ 63,3%, D 60%, D- 56,6%, Anything below 56,6% E) If the average is less than 75 then any one who's course grade is 1,6% above or 1,7% below the average will get C+, 3,3% increase or reduction will mean change in your grade. (If average is 60, anyone whose grade is between 55,1% and 58,4 will get C, anyone whose course grade is between 58,4% and 61,7% will get C+, anyone whose course grade is between 61,7 and 65 will take B-)

Structure of Assignments

There will be 11 assignments. They will be given on Wednesday; you are expected to submit them on next Wednesday. On the weeks of 26th of August, 21st of October, 2nd of December and 9th of December no assignment will be given. Out of 11 assignments, only 9 assignments with highest grades will affect your course grade. For each assignment you will have two option, either you can do the regular assignment where you will have to do 10 multiple choice questions and one analytical question or you can summarize the suggested articles I have uploaded to CANVAS that week.

Structure of Midterm and Final

Both midterm and final will be Take Home Exam. Midterm will be given on 24th of October midnight. You are expected to send the answers to me before midnight 26th of October. If for any reason you are not able to take the midterm and in case you have a valid excuse, you have three options, either you can submit both final and term paper, or you can submit one of them, if you submit one of them, the weight of final exam or term paper on your course grade will increase to 80%.

Final will be given on 12th of December midnight. You are expected to send the answers before 14th of December midnight. If for any reason you are not able to take the midterm, in case you have a valid excuse, you are expected to communicate with me as soon as possible after the final, no later than 17th of December, so that we can set an appropriate makeup time and place.

Both midterm and final will have a multiple question part, analytical part and discussion part. In discussion part, you will be asked to write an essay on subjects discussed in CANVAS. Your essays should be your original work. You may work with your peers with your classmates before the exam to get some common ideas, but each of you should write his or her own essay, in order to get points from discussion part.

Structure of the Term Paper

You can decide to write a term paper. In that case your grade from the term paper will replace either your midterm or final grade. You have to submit on 14th of December midnight. The term paper should be 20 pages long. If you decide to write a term paper, inform me before 7th of October. If you decide to write a term paper, you can either choose between two major subjects I have

described below. (Note for each of them I will make additional suggestions. Alternatively in case you have completely original idea, we can discuss it. You can choose one of two major structures for your paper, unless you have your original suggestion. I will make suggestions on topics you may choose later.

- 1) You can chose a particular case relavent to labor economics, which might be a special governmental program like Bracero Program, an employment policy exercised by a company, like employment policy of Mc Donalds, it might be a specific law related to labor, like minimum wage law, or a specific trend, like increasing participation of women in the labor force. You should describe the case, providing information and data. Analyze the case, introducing the factors behind the decisions or trends creating the case. And implications experienced or possible future implications that are created or will be created by the case.
- 2) Alternatively you can focus on a particular theory or model within labor economics. In this case first you should describe the theory or model, than write how the theory or model was criticised or further developed by other economists. Lastly write how the theory or model is (or is not) relavent to actual economic cases and trends related to labor. If there are some cases that approve of refute the theory or show that the model is relavent or irrelevant, you can include them to your paper. Note if you choose this option, the model or theory should ideally be something we didn't cover in the course widely, if you choose a subject covered in the course widely, then your paper should go beyond what we have seen in the course.

In-Class Presentations

In last two weeks, students will be given opportunity to make a presentation in the class. The presentations will be graded out of 5. The points taken from inclass presentations will be extra points. Each presentation will be 10 minutes long. If the students are writing a paper, the presentation will be on paper topic. Alternatively the presentation can be on a completely other topic related to labor economics. If you decide to make an in-class presentation inform me before 25th of November. Depending on the number of students presenting the classes at 2nd of December and 9th of December can be completely used for presentations.

Submission of Assignments, Term Paper and Exams

You can submit your assignments either through e-mail or through CANVAS. You can also give them to me on Tuesdays after or before class, or you can bring them into my office. In case you choose to send them through e-mail, you can either write them directly using software program, or scan them, or take photo of them, or mix of these three methods. Just make sure, I am able to read what you sent me. You have to send your midterm and final through CANVAS or email. In case for any reason you are not able to do that communicate with me before 26th of October for midterm and before 14th of December for final.

Outline of the Course

26 August Introduction to the Course and Labor Economics (Chapter 1)

2 September Labor Supply Participation (Chapter 4)

9 September Hours of Work (Chapter 5)

16 September Human Capital (Chapter 6)

23 September Labor Demand (Chapter 2 and 3)

30 September Labor Market Equilibrium (Chapter 7)
7 October Monopsony and Minimum Wage (Chapter 9)
14 October FALL BREAK
21 October Wage Inequality, Income Inequality and Poverty (Chapter 15)
28 October Discrimination (Chapter 13)
4 November Unions and Collective Bargaining (Chapter 12)
11 November Job Search (Chapter 8)
18 November Unemployment (Chapter 14)
25 November Internal Labor Markets (Chapter 10)
2 December Personal Economics (Chapter 11)
9 December General Review

SOME IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

“The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.” (www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/)

“All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.”

“Faculty...must strive in the classroom to maintain a climate conducive to thinking and learning.” PPM 8-12.3, B. “Students have a right to support and assistance from the University in maintaining a climate conducive to thinking and learning.” PPM 8-10, II. A. The Student Code is spelled out in the course schedule. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the code. The code also specifies proscribed conducts (Article XI) that involve cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students may receive sanctions for violating one or more of these proscriptions. The instructor of this class will enforce the code in this course; cheating and plagiarism will result in appropriate penalties, such as a failing grade on a specific exam or in the course and/or expulsion from the course. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.”

“The syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification.” “Attendance requirements & excused absences: The University expects regular attendance at all class meetings. An instructor may choose to have an explicit attendance requirement. Physical attendance may be used as a criterion in determining the

final grade only where it indicates lack of participation in a class where student participation is generally required or as required by accrediting bodies. Any particular attendance requirements of a course must be available to students at the time of the first class meeting.” “Students absent from class to participate in officially sanctioned University activities (e.g., band, debate, student government, athletics) or religious obligations, or with instructor's approval, shall be permitted to make up both assignments and examinations. The University expects its departments and programs that take students away from class meetings to schedule such events in a way that will minimize hindrance of the student's orderly completion of course requirements. Such units must provide a written statement to the students describing the activity and stating as precisely as possible the dates of the required absence. The involved students must deliver this documentation to their instructors, preferably before the absence but in no event later than one week after the absence.”“Some of the readings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that may conflict with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking. If you have a concern, please discuss it with me at your earliest convenience. For more information, please consult the University of Utah’s Accommodations Policy, which appears at: www.admin.utah.edu/facdev/accommodations-policy.”