

**Economics 3100-090**  
*University of Utah*  
**Spring 2019 Semester**



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**Labor Economics – 3 Credit Hrs.**

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**CLASS DETAILS:** This is an online course, which does not meet in-class. For additional information, please visit <http://uonline.utah.edu> or call (801) 585-5959. This course fulfills the University QI requirement.

**TEXT:** Borjas, George. *Labor Economics*, 7th Edition. McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2016. ISBN: 9781259291876

**OFFICE HOURS:** My office hours this semester will be by appointment only. You are welcome to email me with any questions you have and I will respond as quickly as possible. Complex topics may require a structured phone interaction or a series of appointments in order to give proper attention to the matter. Appointment requests need to be made via email and should include your name, ID, summary of question/concern, and the days/times you are available for phone appointments. I will get back with you as soon as my schedule allows.

**CONTENT OVERVIEW:** This course will introduce the components of labor supply, labor demand, and labor market equilibrium. The neoclassical framework is utilized in building models. After basic model building skills have been achieved more rigorous analysis of topics such as compensating wage differentials, human capital theory, wage structure, labor mobility, labor market discrimination, labor unions and collective bargaining, incentive pay and unemployment will be analyzed.

**SCHEDULE:** We will cover all 12 chapters of the Labor Economics text in sequential order. Three (3) exams will be given following our coverage of chapter 4, chapter 8 and chapter 12 respectively. Each of the chapters has an accompanying assignment due within the weekly period designated below. An essay is also required in this course, scheduled due in conjunction with material from chapter 11 (on April 14). Course requirements are summarized in the schedule that follows.



Dates	Events / Holidays	Chapter/Exam
7-Jan to 13-Jan		Chapter 1
14-Jan to 20-Jan		Chapter 2
21-Jan to 27-Jan	Jan 21: MLKJ Day	Chapter 3
28-Jan to 3-Feb		Chapter 4
4-Feb to 10-Feb		<b>Exam 1</b>
11-Feb to 17-Feb		Chapter 5
18-Feb to 24-Feb	Feb 18: Presidents Day	Chapter 6
25-Feb to 3-Mar		Chapter 7
4-Mar to 10-Mar		Chapter 8
11-Mar to 17-Mar	Mar 10-17: Spring Break	<i>n.a.</i>
18-Mar to 24-Mar		<b>Exam 2</b>
25-Mar to 31-Mar		Chapter 9
1-Apr to 7-Apr		Chapter 10
8-Apr to 14-Apr		Chapter 11, <b>Essay Due</b>
15-Apr to 21-Apr		Chapter 12
22-Apr to 28-Apr		<b>Exam 3</b>

**EXAMS:** The course is structured with three (3) exams that test comprehension relating to chapters 1-4 (exam 1), chapters 5-8 (exam 2) and chapters 9-12 (exam 3) respectively. These exams will be made available on Canvas on the first day of the week for which they are assigned (February 4, March 18, and April 22 respectively). The exams will then be due on the last day of the designated period (February 10, March 24, and April 28 respectively). Late submissions will not receive any credit. Please read the directions on each exam clearly and follow the requirements precisely in order to avoid losing points. Your two highest-scoring exams will determine the number of points awarded. The lowest-scoring exam will be dropped from your grade.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Weekly assignments are required in this course. Assignments will be made available to you on the first day of each week (Monday). Assignments must be submitted prior to the last day of the week in order to receive credit. Weekly assignments range in the number of questions asked and points earned towards your grade. The delineation of points for each chapter is listed below. Assignments are completed in McGraw-Hill Connect accessed directly on Canvas. You will need to sign into your University of Utah account prior to accessing the assignments to ensure that the vendor application recognizes your virtual entry request.



**ESSAY:** You are required to write an essay addressing the question “Why do different workers receive different wages?” Your essay response needs to incorporate at least three (3) separate concepts discussed in the text and may include diagrams, charts, tables, equations, or illustrations to help make your points clear. Your essay should focus on “explaining” the rationale to why different workers receive different wages – as opposed to writing an opinion piece. The body of your essay response (tables/charts not included in the count) must be between 1,500 – 2,500 words and emailed to me prior to April 14, 2019. When submitting your essay, please attach your document as a Word or PDF file. The document must be composed as a double-space document, using Bell MT font (12).

**GRADING:** Your grade in this course will reflect your collective performance on twelve (12) chapter assignments, an essay assignment, and three (3) exams. In total, there are 1,000 points possible throughout the course. Chapter assignments collectively comprise 34% of your grade (ranging between 10 and 40 points per chapter). Your essay assignment reflects 16% of your grade. The remaining 50% of your grade calculates in accordance with your exam performance. Each exam is worth 25% of your grade. I will drop your lowest exam score. A summary breakdown of grading details is listed below.

<b>Delineation of Course Points</b>					
<b>Chapter Assignments</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Essay</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Exams*</b>	<b>Points</b>
Chapter 1	10	Essay	160	Exam 1	250
Chapter 2	30			Exam 2	250
Chapter 3	40			Exam 3	250
Chapter 4	30				
Chapter 5	20				
Chapter 6	40				
Chapter 7	20				
Chapter 8	25				
Chapter 9	30				
Chapter 10	30				
Chapter 11	25				
Chapter 12	40				
<b>Total Pts.</b>	<b>340</b>		<b>160</b>		<b>500</b>
<b>% of Total Pts.</b>	<b>34%</b>		<b>16%</b>		<b>50%</b>

*\*Lowest Score Dropped*



The grading rubric for this course is as follows:

Points	Score	Grade
940 - 1000	94.0% to 100%	A
900 - 939	90.0% to 93.9%	A-
870 - 899	87.0% to 89.9%	B+
840 - 869	84.0% to 86.9%	B
800 - 839	80.0% to 83.9%	B-
770 - 799	77.0% to 79.9%	C+
740 - 769	74.0% to 76.9%	C
700 - 739	70.0% to 73.9%	C-
670 - 699	67.0% to 69.9%	D+
640 - 669	64.0% to 66.9%	D
600 - 639	60.0% to 63.9%	D-
< 600	<i>Below 60%</i>	E

**SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:** Additional material, links, video content, explanation documents, etc. will be made available on Canvas throughout the course.

**DEADLINES:** Submission of chapter assignments, the course essay, and exams must take place prior to the deadline listed in the schedule above in order to receive credit. If an emergency arises, please contact me prior to the deadline to discuss options.

**ADA STATEMENT:** 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 Union Building, 801-581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

**INCOMPLETES:** Incompletes will be given only for reasons of illness or a family emergency. You must supply written evidence for the reason. According to university regulations, you must be passing the class at the time you get an incomplete. Cheating on exams and other forms of academic dishonesty may lead to expulsion from the class, failure of the class, or more severe penalties. I must submit a report of all incidents of academic dishonesty to your dean for inclusion in your file.



**RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES:** 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 that 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 it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, and I will do so, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from the classroom environment and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee. **Student conduct still applies in an online environment.** Please keep your language clean. Feel free to disagree with other students, a general idea/argument, or myself but please ensure to do so respectfully – allowing each student to progress both independently and in a group setting.

**CHANGES:** The syllabus is subject to change. If changes to the syllabus occur, I will announce the changes in the course announcements.