Labor Economics
Spring 2019
Syllabus

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Savery 342

Class Meetings

T Th 3:30 – 5:20 MEB242

Office Hours

By appointment.

Course Description

In this class we will use economic theory and current and historical labor market data to understand labor market outcomes such as labor supply, labor demand, earnings, occupational choice, human capital investment and unemployment. Implications of policies measures such as workplace regulation, unemployment compensation and the minimum wage will be discussed.

Prerequisites

ECON 300 (Intermediate Microeconomics) or the equivalent.

Required Text

Labor Economics, Seventh Edition, by George Borjas.

Other Required Readings

Articles and policy papers posted on Canvas or distributed in class.

Class materials

Class materials will be posted on Canvas. I will notify you by 8 AM on the day of class if there are any additional documents you need to download, print out and bring to class the next day.

Grading

Your class score will be calculated as follows:

Midterm 1	28 %
Final	32 %
Homework	15 %
Project	25 %

A score of 90% is generally the cutoff for an A-, 80% for a B-, etc. Grades are assigned according to the standard University of Washington grading system. See http://www.washington.edu/students/gencat/front/Grading_Sys.html.

Exams

Exams will consist of problems, essays, and multiple choice questions. **The only electronic device you may access during the exam is a 4-function calculator.** Makeup exams will be given only under *extraordinary* and *documentable* circumstances, e.g., death in family, military service, jury duty.   Exams will not be rescheduled exams to accommodate end of quarter or holiday travel. The final exam will be cumulative.

Homework

You may consult class notes, handouts, and materials posted on the class Canvas page to complete the assignment. You may not work with other students or consult any other material posted on the web to complete the graded homework assignments.   I will be happy to meet with you if you feel you are stuck.

Solutions to the homework problems will be posted after everyone has handed in the assignments.   I will review problems as requested.

Project

The group project involves researching a labor economics topic and presenting the results to the class. Detailed instructions, including due dates, are provided in a separate document.

Academic Conduct

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of the Department's rules for student conduct and evaluation of student learning. Students accused of academic misconduct will be referred directly to the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct for disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Conduct Code and, if found guilty, will be subject to sanctions. Sanctions range from a disciplinary warning, to academic probation, to immediate dismissal from the Department and the University, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct. Dismissal can be, and has been, applied even for first offenses. Moreover, a grade of zero can be assigned by the instructor for the course.

Email

Please include Econ443 in the subject of any email to me about the class. Include your student number as well as your name in English characters. Check your University of Washington email account regularly for announcements.
Keep copies of class emails which you may need to refer to later.

Schedule
(4/2/19)

Subject to changes that will be announced before class.
Exams will be held on the dates specified below.
Additional short articles on current events will be assigned throughout the quarter.

Session	Day/Date	Topic	Readings and Assignments
1	4/2 (Tu)	Intro Measuring the Labor Force Review of Consumer Theory	*Borjas 1 (No appendix), 2.0-2.1 *Stiglitz "One Percent" *Krugman "All Jobs" *Peck "Obviously" *Schwarz "Coal"
2	4/4 (Th)	Labor Supply I The Labor Supply Model	*Borjas 2.2-2.5,2.7 *Baseline Labor Supply Model (p. 1-10)* **HW 1 (Review)**
3	4/9 (Tu)	Labor Supply II Participation Labor force participation profiles by sex Labor supply applications	*Borjas 2.6, 2.10, 2.11 2.13 *Baseline Labor Supply Model (p. 11-13)* *Labor Supply Applications*
4	4/11 (Th)	Research I Using Stata Regression models Group meetings	*Questionnaire* *Borjas, Appendix 1 **SECOND HALF OF LECTURE IN CSSS LAB**
5	4/16 (Tu)	Labor Supply III Estimating labor supply models Research tools	*Borjas, 2.8 *HK_Rose_Most_Likely **HW2 : Labor Supply 1**

6	4/18 (Th)	<u>Labor Supply IV</u> Home Production Intertemporal Intro to labor demand	*Borjas 2.9, 2.12
7	4/23 (Tu)	<u>Labor Demand II</u> Theory, elasticity, occupations	*Borjas 3.0-3.7 *Borjas, Appendix 3 *Labor Demand, p. 1-6* **HW 3: Labor Supply 2**
8	4/25 (Th)	<u>Labor Demand III</u> Equilibrium I Minimum Wage	*Borjas 3- 3.11 *Lowrey, "Supersize" *Mourdoukoutas, "15Dollar" *Swanson, "Steel" *Lohr, "Coding" Autor, "Hamilton" Minimum wage TBA *Labor Demand, p. 10-12*
9	4/30 (Tu)	<u>Equilibrium II</u> Payroll tax, monopsony	*Borjas, 4.0-4.6, 4.8 *Appendix 7 **HW 4 (Labor Demand)**
10	5/2 (Th)	Wage Determination Human Capital I	*Borjas, 6.0-6.5
11	5/7 (Tu)	**MIDTERM**	Includes up to Labor Demand
12	5/9 (Th)	<u>Human Capital II</u>	*Borjas 6.7-6.13 **HW 5 (Equilibrium)**
13	5/14 (Tu)	<u>Immigration</u>	*Borjas, 8.0-8.9 (Look up Immigration from Eqm Chapter) *Jasso and Rosenzweig "New Immigration Plan"

14	5/16 (Th)	<u>Compensating Differentials Race/Gender I</u>	*Borjas, 5.0-5.5
15	5/21 (Tu)	<u>Race/Gender II</u>	* Borjas, Ch.9 **HW7 (Human Capital)**
16	5/23 (Th)	Race/Gender III	*"Star BSO Flute…"
17	5/28 (Tu)	<u>Wage Distribution</u>	**HW8 (Race/Gender)** *Borjas, Ch. 7.1-7.5
18	5/30 (Th)	<u>Unemployment</u> (Presentation?)	*Borjas, 12.1-12.7, 12.11
19	6/4 (Tu)	Presentations	
20	6/6 (Th)	Presentations	**HW9 (Unemployment and Wage Distribution)**
	6/13 (Th)	**FINAL EXAM: 4:30-6:20 LOCATION MEB242**	Cumulative

*Required Reading
Recommended Reading
Bring to Class
Assignment Due
* Assignment not for submission