

**Labor Economics
Winter 2015
Syllabus
12/31/14**

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Savery 342

Class Meetings

TTh 3:30-5:20 [LOW](#) 105

Office Hours

T 1:30-2:30, Savery 342, and 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, Sixth Edition, by George Borjas.

Other Required Readings

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

Class materials

Class materials are posted on Catalyst. I will notify you by 10 PM the day before class if there is a document you need to print out and bring to class the next day.

Grading

Your class score will be calculated as follows:

Midterm 1	25 %
Midterm 2	30 %
Homework	15 %
Project	30 %

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

Homework

Each student will be assigned a homework partner. You and your partner will work together and submit a single assignment for a single grade. You may consult class notes, handouts, and materials posted on Catalyst to complete the assignment. You may not consult any students outside your partnership or any other material posted on the web. I will be happy to meet with you if you feel you need more guidance. You should be able to solve all the homework problems individually as much of the exam material is based on the homework.

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

your partner's contributions at the end of the quarter and that rating will be factored into the class grade.

Project

The group project involves researching a labor economics topic and presenting the results to the class. Detailed instructions on the projects 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.

Contact

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.

Exams will be held on the dates specified below
Other assignment dates and topics may change
Short articles on current events will be assigned during the quarter

<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings and Assignments</u>
1	1/6	Intro Review Consumer Theory	Borjas 2.0-2.2
2	1/8	Labor Supply I	Borjas 2.3-2.5, 2.7 <i>Baseline Labor Supply Model (p. 1-10)</i>
3	1/13	Labor Supply II	Borjas, 2.6, 2.10, 2.11 <i>Baseline Labor Supply Model (p. 11-13)</i> <i>Labor Supply Applications</i> *HW 1 (Review)
4	1/15	Labor Supply III Research Tools	Borjas, Appendix to Ch. 1 Borjas, 2.8 From West Point Forward Group Meetings *Questionnaire HW 2 (Labor Supply I and II)
5	1/20	Labor Supply IV	Borjas 2.9, 2.12, 2.13 When Moms are Breadwinners <i>Home Production</i>

Comment [ER1]: Solving labor supply model, comparative statics backward bending

Comment [ER2]: Applications, reservation wage

Comment [ER3]: BLS data, Regression, Estimating Labor Supply Model, West Point, Stata Group meetings.

Comment [ER4]: Variations: Home Production, Joint Profiles, History

6	1/22	Labor Demand I	Borjas 3.0-3.5 <i>Labor Demand, p. 1-6</i> HW 3 (Labor Supply III and IV)
7	1/27	Labor Demand II Equilibrium I	Borjas 3.7 - 3.11 <i>Labor Demand, p. 10-12</i>
8	1/29	MIDTERM II	
9	2/3	Equilibrium II Wage Determination	HW 4 (Labor Demand) Articles on Minimum Wage Borjas, 4.0-4.5, 4.9-4.10
10	2/5	Compensating Differentials Human Capital I	Borjas, 5.0-5.4, 5.6
11	2/10	Human Capital II	Borjas, 6.0-6.5 HW5 (Equilibrium)
12	2/12	Human Capital III Race/Gender I	Borjas, 6.7-6.13 HW6 (Compensating Differentials)
13	2/17	Race/Gender II	Borjas, Ch. 9
14	2/19	Race/Gender III	Borjas, Ch.9

Comment [E5]: Faculty Senate

Comment [ER6]: Where labor supply comes from (auction off). Then to labor Demand curve, eqm.

15	2/24	Unemployment Inequality	Borjas, Ch. 7.1-7.5, 12.1-12.8 HW7 (Human Capital, Race/Gender)
16	2/26	Presentations (Topics)	
17	3/3	Presentations	
18	3/5	Presentations	HW 8 (Unemployment, Inequality)
19	3/10	Presentations	
20	3/12	MIDTERM 2	

Comment [E7]: Faculty SEnate

Required Reading
Bring to Class
Assignment Due
 * Not for submission