

**Labor Economics**  
**Winter 2016**  
**Syllabus**  
**1/3/16**

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Savery 342

**Class Meetings**

MW 3:30-5:20 LOW 105

**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*, Sixth Edition, by George Borjas.

**Other Required Readings**

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

## Class materials

Class materials are 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	30 %
Midterm 2	30 %
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](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 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.  
I will announce any changes to due dates of assignments.  
Short articles on current events will be assigned throughout the quarter.**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Day/Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings and Assignments</u>
1	1/4 (M)	Intro Review Consumer Theory	
2	1/6 (W)	Labor Supply I	Borjas 1, 2.0-2.5, 2.7 <i>Baseline Labor Supply Model (p. 1-10)</i> <b>*HW 1 (Review)</b>
3	1/11 (M)	Labor Supply II	Borjas, 2.6, 2.10, 2.11 <i>Baseline Labor Supply Model (p. 11-13)</i> <i>Labor Supply Applications</i>
4	1/13 (W)	Labor Supply III Research Tools	Borjas, Appendix to Ch. 1 Borjas, 2.8 Read "Most Likely" Group Meetings <b>*Questionnaire</b> <b>HW 2 (Labor Supply I and II)</b>
	1/18 (M)	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>PRESIDENT'S DAY</b>
5	1/20 (W)	Labor Supply IV	Borjas 2.9, 2.12, 2.13 When Moms are Breadwinners <i>Home Production</i>

6	1/25 (M)	Labor Supply V	<b>HW 3 (Labor Supply III and IV)</b>
7	1/27 (W)	Labor Demand I	Borjas 3.0-3.5 <i>Labor Demand, p. 1-6</i>
8	2/1 (M)	Labor Demand II Equilibrium I	Borjas 3.7 - 3.11 <i>Labor Demand, p. 10-12</i>
9	2/3 (W)	Equilibrium II	Borjas, 4.0-4.5, 4.9-4.10 <b>HW 4 (Labor Demand)</b>
10	2/8 (M)	Wage Determination Compensating Differentials	Borjas, 5.0-5.4, 5.6
11	2/10 (W)	<b>MIDTERM</b>	
	2/15 (M)	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>MLK BIRTHDAY</b>
12	2/17 (W)	Human Capital I	Borjas, 6.0-6.5 <b>HW 5 (Equilibrium)</b>
13	2/22 (M)	Human Capital II Race/Gender I	Borjas, 6.7-6.13
14	2/24 (W)	Race/Gender II	Borjas, Ch. 9 <b>HW6 (Compensating Differentials)</b>

15	2/29 (M)	Unemployment Inequality	Borjas, Ch. 7.1-7.5, 12.1-12.8
16	3/2 (W)	Presentations Topics	
17	3/7 (M)	Presentations	<b>HW7 (Human Capital, Race/Gender)</b>
18	3/9 (W)	Presentations	
19	3/17 (Th)	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>2:30 – 4:30, Loew 105</b>

Required Reading

*Bring to Class*

**Assignment Due**

\* Not for submission