

Economics 350: Labor Market Issues

Spring 2019

University of Oregon
Department of Economics

Lectures: MW 4-5:20 p.m., in McKenzie Hall 221

Instructor: Luciana Etcheverry

Office: PLC 529

E-mail: lucianae@uoregon.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 3-4pm and Thursday 4-5pm

Course Description

The objective of this course is to provide students with an introduction to labor markets and a theoretical overview of how these markets function. We will begin by studying labor supply, labor demand, and human capital investment; in the latter portion of the course, we will move on to discussing associated topics such as government involvement, unions, and discrimination.

Textbook (optional)

Contemporary Labor Economics, Eleventh Edition, by McConnell, Brue, and Macpherson.
The ISBN-13 number for the book is 978-1259290602.

Prerequisites

The required prerequisite for this course is EC201. In general, I recommend taking EC311 before taking 300-level electives, as many of these courses build upon the concepts of optimization covered in that course. I may cover some of these topics as needed, but I will do so in less time and depth than you are exposed to in EC311.

Canvas

Homework assignments, grades, and exam preparation materials will be posted to the course page on Canvas. Additionally, any assigned readings outside of the textbook will be posted under the Files section of the course on Canvas.

Grading

Your grade will be determined by your performance on four of five problem sets (worth 30%), one midterm exam (worth 30%), and one comprehensive final exam (worth 40%). Final course grades may be curved, although this is not guaranteed.

Homeworks

There will be 5 homeworks that will be posted on canvas. They will tentatively be due on Wednesday of Week 2, 4, 5, 8 and 10, respectively. Hard copies of these problem sets will be due by the beginning of class on the assigned date. If you cannot come to class when the homework is due bring your homework to the previous class or office hour. I understand that life gets busy and sometimes unexpected things happen so your lowest score will be dropped. This also means that late problem sets will not be accepted and there will be no makeup assignments. You are welcome to work with other students on the problems sets, but each student should turn in an individual copy of the assignment. Word-for-word copies will not be accepted and will be viewed as academic dishonesty.

Midterm and Final Exams

The midterm exam will take place on **Wednesday, May 8** (week 6). This exam will be given during normal class time. There are no retake/make-up exams in this course. If you are absent for the midterm then you may submit a written petition explaining the circumstances surrounding the absence. Only petitions describing situations that are extremely exceptional will be approved. If the petition is approved, then the weight of the midterm will be placed on the final exam.

The comprehensive final exam will take place on **Thursday, June 13, at 2:45 p.m.** in our normal classroom. If you miss the final exam you will receive a zero grade on the final.¹

Please be aware of these date, as the midterm and final exams will not be rescheduled. **Do not take this course if you already know you cannot take either the midterm or the final exam at the specified time.**

¹In the event of a missed final due to a verifiable emergency, the student may be eligible to receive an incomplete in the course. In order to qualify for an incomplete in the course, the student must have take the midterm exam and must, at the time of the missed final exam, have at least a 70% average in the course. In the event that the student fails to satisfy this condition, a missed final exam (even for a valid emergency) will result in the student receiving an F in the course.

Grading Appeals

Any requests for re-grading a homework assignment or exam must be submitted in writing within one week of when the homework or exam was handed back. If you do not pick up your homework or exam when it is handed back, you must still submit your request within a week of when the assignment was originally handed back. A re-grading request should include a logical argument indicating why you believe your answer was correct. The grader reserves the right to re-grade the entire assignment when a request to re-grade any part of the exam is made.

Attendance

Attendance is not mandatory, but you should be aware that it is perfectly reasonable to expect test questions relating to material covered in class that may not be in the textbook or in the class notes posted to Canvas.

University Policies and Expectations

Sexual Violence and Survivor Support

The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and gender-based stalking. If you or someone you know has experienced or experiences gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), know that you are not alone. UO has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

Please be aware that all UO employees are required reporters. This means that if you tell me about a situation, I may have to report the information to my supervisor or the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity. Although I have to report the situation, you will still have options about how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need.

If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can call 541-346-SAFE, UO's 24-hour hotline, to be connected to a confidential counselor to discuss your options. You can also visit the SAFE website at safe.uoregon.edu.

Diversity

The University of Oregon is dedicated to the principles of equal opportunity and freedom from unfair discrimination for all members of the university community and an acceptance of true diversity as an affirmation of individual identity within a welcoming community. This course is committed to upholding these principles by encouraging the exploration, engagement, and expression of distinct perspectives and diverse identities.

All of us associated with the course—you included—are expected to value each class member's experiences and contributions and to communicate disagreements respectfully. Please notify me if you feel aspects of the course undermine these principles in any way. You may also notify the Department of Economics at 541-346-8845. For additional assistance and resources, you are also encouraged to contact the following campus services:

- Office of Equity and Inclusion: 1 Johnson Hall | 541-346-3175 | oied.uoregon.edu
- Center on Diversity and Community: 54 Susan Campbell Hall | 541-346-3212 | codac.uoregon.edu
- Bias Response Team: 164 Oregon Hall — 541-346-1134 | brt@uoregon.edu | bias.uoregon.edu

Academic Integrity

The University Student Conduct Code (available at conduct.uoregon.edu) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. By way of example, students should not give or receive (or attempt to give or receive) unauthorized help on assignments or examinations without explicit permission from the instructor. Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g. quotations, paraphrases, ideas).

If there is any question about whether a particular activity constitutes academic misconduct, it is the student's obligation to clarify the matter with the instructor before engaging in or attempting to engage in the activity. Please contact me with any questions you have about academic misconduct. Additional information about maintaining your academic integrity is available at integrity.uoregon.edu.

—from the Office of the Dean of Students

Additionally, all exams will be closed-note and closed-book. Students will be permitted to have a pen or pencil, ruler or straightedge, and a non-programmable calculator on their desk during the exam. Under no circumstances will students be allowed to use a cell phone during the exam. The use of any other assistance or sources of information is prohibited and will be considered cheating.

No form of cheating will be tolerated. If you are caught cheating, you will receive no credit for the assignment on which you cheated, and the incident may be reported to the Office of Student Conduct for further disciplinary action.

Accessibility and Special Accommodations

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are any aspects of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. For more information or assistance, contact the Accessible Education Center: 164 Oregon Hall | 541-346-1155 | aec.uoregon.edu.

If you require special accommodations of any kind due to a documented disability you will need to provide a letter from the Accessible Education Center verifying your need and detailing the appropriate accommodations. Please get this letter to me by the end of the first week of classes So that I can plan for any necessary accommodations.

If your accommodations involve any proctoring of exams at the AEC you will be responsible for scheduling those exams with sufficient anticipation with the AEC.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1	Introduction & Labor Supply <i>Chapters 1-2</i>
Week 2	Labor Supply & Labor Demand <i>Chapters 2, 5</i>
Week 3	Labor Demand <i>Chapter 5</i>
Week 4	Labor Market Equilibrium & Wages <i>Chapter 6</i>
Week 5	Human Capital <i>Chapter 4</i>
Week 6	Review & Midterm (Wednesday, May 8)
Week 7	Alternative Pay Schemes & Wage Differentials <i>Chapters 7, 8</i>
Week 8	Mobility & Unions <i>Chapters 9, 10, 11</i>
Week 9	No Class (May 27, Memorial Day) & Discrimination <i>Chapter 14</i>
Week 10	Discrimination & Review <i>Chapter 14</i>
Final Exam	Thursday, June 13 (2:45 p.m.)