Labor Economics Syllabus
UW – Oshkosh, Spring 2013

Course: ECON 321-001C
Office: Sage 2412
Instructor: Dr. Artz
Phone: 920-424-2190
Room: Sage 4221
E-mail: artzb@uwosh.edu
Lecture: Monday & Wednesday
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday
1:50 pm – 3:20 pm
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Contact Information:

E-mail should always be your first choice when attempting to contact me as it is the most reliable. Please feel free to stop by during my office hours with any questions you may have. If my office hours are not conducive to your schedule, please e-mail me and we can set up an appointment at another time during the week.

Course Overview:

This course is designed to provide a more in-depth understanding of the workings of the labor market in the US. Labor Economics can be separated into two main categories: theory and policy. The course will first introduce you to the underlying theories that explain the core concepts contained in the labor market, but then go further to explain the realities that exist today in the US labor market.

Required Course Materials:

2) Calculator: You should have a working knowledge of a reliable calculator that can at least calculate square roots.
3) D2L: All of the course information including exam and homework grades, homework material and practice material will be posted here.

Grading Scheme:

All course grades are rounded to the nearest percent and are assigned along the following curve:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92 – 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82 – 86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 81%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72 – 76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 – 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>62 – 66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 – 61%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60%</td>
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</tbody>
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1) Homework: 10%
2) Midterm exams: 30% each
3) Final exam: 30%

Homework:

Homework will be assigned roughly every other week, and you will be given one week to complete each assignment. The objective of homework is to prepare you for the exams, so it is in your best interest to put some effort into completing the homework assignments. Homework questions will be similar in style and substance to exam questions.
Exams:

There will be two mid-term exams as well as one final exam on the last day of classes. Exams are scheduled well in advance and cannot be made up except in the case of severe and documented emergencies. Questions on the exams will be short-answer problem solving questions, and the final exam is comprehensive in nature.

Attendance and Classroom Behavior:

Attendance is not required but is generally necessary to perform well in the course. You should arrive to class on time and be prepared to begin promptly at 1:50 pm. Cell phones must not be used during class as their operation tends to be disruptive.

Course Outline: (Tentative and subject to change)

Chapter 1: Introduction
Chapter 2: Overview of the labor market
Chapter 3: The demand for labor
Chapter 4: Labor demand elasticities
Chapter 6: Supply of labor to the economy: the decision to work
Chapter 7: Labor supply: household production, the family and the life cycle

Exam One: Wednesday, March 6
Chapter 5: Frictions in the labor market
Chapter 8: Compensating wage differentials and labor markets
Chapter 9: Investments in human capital: education and training
Chapter 10: Worker mobility: migration, immigration and turnover
Chapter 11: Pay and productivity: wage determination within the firm

Exam Two: Wednesday, April 10
Chapter 12: Gender, race and ethnicity in the labor market
Chapter 13: Unions and the labor market
Chapter 14: Unemployment
Chapter 15: Inequality in earnings

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 8