The University of Oklahoma  
Department of Economics  

Econ 3513 - Labor Problems  

Fall 2018

Professor: Saleh S. Tabrizy  
Email: tabrizy@ou.edu  
Website: https://sites.google.com/site/salehstabrizy  
Address: 308 Cate Center Drive, CCD1, No. 325  
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00 - 4:00 pm, and by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Zhengang Xu  
Email: zhengang.xu@ou.edu  
Office Hour: TBA

Class Meetings: August 20 - December 7, 2018 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.¹  
Time and Classroom: 10:30 AM - 11:20 AM at Adams Hall, Classroom No. 355.

Course Description
This is an intermediate-level Economics course, in which we examine the labor market. The underlying learning objective of this course is to improve students’ critical thinking skills in a wide range of topics that relate to the functioning of labor market. To achieve this goal, this course is designed to introduce selected theoretical tools that are employed to model the allocation of labor forces. It also provides a survey of labor market institutions. Lastly, it introduces some empirical facts that relate to labor market to improve students’ understanding of how labor forces are allocated in the United States. This course begins with modeling labor market equilibrium. Then, selected issues such as compensating wage differentials, human capital, and wage structure are discussed. Following these discussions, this course puts particular emphasis on the international mobility of labor force.

Prerequisite
Econ 1113 and Econ 1123.

The Required E-textbook
Labor Economics (7th ed.) by George J. Borjas  
ISBN: 9781259359668  
Registration link: http://connect.mheducation.com/class/econ3513fall2018

How to purchase the required e-textbook?
You have two options: 1.) you may purchase this through the OU Bookstore for about $140; or 2.) you may purchase through McGraw Hill Education’s website for about $105.²

I do not care which option you choose as long as you have access to Connect’s e-textbook and homework. Make your choice given your budget.

¹There will be no lectures on Labor Day Holiday (09/03) and Thanksgiving vacation (11/21 - 11/25).  
²When you register through the link for your section (see above), you are given the option of buy this product directly from McGraw Hill Education.
Course Website
The main websites is Canvas. From there, you will be directed to a repository on Google, where the lecture materials are kept. You will also be directed to Connect, where the assignments are done.

Assessment
The assessment is based on two exams (60% weight), a number of assignments (30% weight), and in-class quizzes (10% weight):

- The Exams Grade:
  There are two exams. Though the concepts are closely related to each other, the exams are not going to be cumulative. The exams include multiple choice questions. They may also include short answer questions. When it comes to final letter grade calculation, the exams have 60% weight. For a given student, 35% weight will be allocated to the exam with higher grade, and 25% weight will be allocated to the exam with lower grade.

- The Assignments:
  There are a number of assigned problems for each chapter. Some of the assignments are done on Connect (2 attempts are allowed). The rest will be submitted in hard copy (only 1 attempt is allowed). When it comes to final letter grade calculation, the assignments have 30% weight. For this I consider the average grade for your assignments, where all chapters are equally weighted.

- The In-class Quizzes:
  This is an on-campus course. Students are expected to attend the lectures and participate in class activities. There are a number of in-class quizzes that contribute to 10% of your final grade. We add up your in-class quiz points, and we divide them by N-6, where N is the number of in-class quizzes. This implies that even if you miss 6 in-class quizzes or if you answer 6 in-class quizzes wrong, you may still get the full credit. Given the weight of in-class quiz grade, if you end up with some extra credits, you may use them where you need; e.g., midterm or final exams.

The sum of your exams, assignments, essay, and class participation grades will determine your final letter grade on a scale where 90 or above is an A and less than 60 is an F. Tests will not be curved, needs based appeals will not be entertained, and grades will be determined in strict accordance with the above policy. Even if you end up with, say, 89.99999, you earned a grade of B.

Some Tips
In what follows, I share some tips on how to succeed in this course:

- Take part in classes. The key concepts are introduced in the lectures. You also get to see the application of those concepts in a number of in-class assignments. We also discuss how those new concepts relate to what we have already learned. This is the most efficient way to learn the concepts of interest and to see their applications.

- Take personal notes during the lectures. I share the materials that I use in class. However, it is very useful if you also keep some personal notes. Keep your notes organized.
• Read the materials that are shared with you in class. The chosen chapters describe the concepts thoroughly while providing lots of examples and real life applications. Take personal notes when you read the materials. Organize your notes.

• To be prepared for the exams, review the lecture presentations, in-class assignments, and your personal notes. Samples of previous exams are also available on Canvas.

• At any stage, feel free to contact me if you have any problems with the concepts or the assignments.

Some Notes
Read the following notes, and let me know, please, should you have any questions:

• My goal is to create a class in which everyone is welcome, included, and able to learn and succeed. Please talk to me if there is something I need to know in order to facilitate a positive and productive learning experience for you.

• If you require an accommodation based on disability, please let me know during the first week of the semester. Also, please bring the authorized documentation, issued by the Disability Resource Center.  

• The academic misconduct policy is as stated in the University of Oklahoma Academic Integrity Code. Cheating, for instance, is a very serious violation of the code and will be treated as such. Signing the class roll for someone else or having someone else sign the class roll for you is also considered academic misconduct. Honor yourself, and honor the code.

• Unless noted in class, you are not allowed to use your laptop computer, tablet, smart phone, or any other electronic gadget during the lectures or exams. They must be turned off. Please let me know if you require an electronic gadget given a disability. I will certainly allow you to use the required device.

Course Outline

• An Introduction to Labor Economics (Chapter 1)
  Lectures: 08/20 - 08/27; The due date for assignments: 08/31 at 11:59 PM

• Labor Supply (Chapters 2)
  Lectures: 08/29 - 09/12; The due date for assignments: 09/21 at 11:59 PM

• Labor Demand (Chapters 3)
  Lectures: 09/14 - 09/26; The due date for assignments: 10/05 at 11:59 PM

• Equilibrium in Labor Market (Chapters 4)
  Lectures: 09/28 - 10/08; The due date for assignments: 10/12 at 11:59 PM

• Labor Supply, Demand, and Equilibrium - Concluding Remarks
  Lecture: 10/10 and 10/12

---

3 You may reach this center via phone. Voice: (405) 325-3852; TDD: (405) 325-4173
4 A student’s guide to academic integrity is available at: https://integrity.ou.edu/students.html
5 I reserve the right to make changes in the course outline.
• Midterm exam (Ch. 1, 2, 3, and 4)
  Monday, 10/15 (10:30 - 11:20, Adams Hall 355)

• Compensating Wage Differentials (Chapter 5)
  Lectures: 10/17 - 10/26; The due date for assignments: 11/02 at 11:59 PM

• Human Capital (Chapter 6)
  Lectures: 10/29 - 11/09; The due date for assignments: 11/16 at 11:59 PM

• The Wage Structure (Chapter 7)
  Lectures: 11/12 - 11/26; The due date for assignments: 11/30 at 11:59 PM

• Immigration (selected readings)
  Lectures: 11/28 - 12/03; no assignments

• Unemployment (selected readings)
  Lectures: 12/05 and 12/07 no assignments

• Final exam (The main focus is on Ch. 5, 6, and 7 as well as selected topics in Immigration and Unemployment.)
  Thursday, 12/13 (8:00 - 10:00, Adams Hall 355)
student registration information

course
ECON-3513-001: Labor Problems (Fall 2018) with LearnSmart

instructor
Saleh Tabrizy

section
ECON-3513-001: Labor Problems (Fall 2018)

registration dates
08/20/18 - 08/30/18

online registration instructions
Go to the following web address and click the "register now" button.

https://connect.mheducation.com/class/econ3513fall2018

This is a unique address for
ECON-3513-001: Labor Problems (Fall 2018)

Having trouble registering?

© 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved.