The University of Oklahoma  
Department of Economics  
Econ 3513 - Labor Problems  
Spring 2020

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00 - 4:00 pm, and by appointment

Teaching Assistants: Please refer to the homepage of the Canvas entry for a full list of teaching assistants who are helping me in this course. You will find their name, contact information, and office hours on that page. If you have any questions, feel free and send me an email first. Use tabrizy@ou.edu. Then, either one of my teaching assistants or I will get back to you in less than 36 hours.

Class Meetings: January 13 - May 1, 2020 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 about the 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. This course also puts particular emphasis on the international mobility of labor force.

Prerequisite  
Econ 1113 and Econ 1123.

The Required Textbook  
You can purchase the required textbook through OU Bookstore (https://ou.textbookx.com) or any other vendor that you like.

Course Software  
Students at the University of Oklahoma have free access to M.S. Office 365. Using their free access, students in Labor Problems must install an up-to-date version of M.S. Excel on their laptop devices. They should bring their devices to class. In case you do not have a laptop device, you may borrow one from the OU Library. Students are expected

¹There will be no lectures on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (01/20) and Spring Vacation (03/14 - 03/22).
to know M.S. Excel at an intermediate level.

Course Website
The main websites is Canvas. From there, you will be directed to a repository on Google, where the lecture materials are kept.

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. The assignments and their due dates will be announced (and discussed) in class. They should be typed and submitted in hard copy at their due dates, in class. 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 assignments 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 quiz points, and we divide them by $S-15$, where $S$ is the total number of points for quizzes. This implies that even if you miss few quizzes or if you answer few of them 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 Accessibility and Disability Resource Center.²

• The academic misconduct policy is as stated in the University of Oklahoma Acade-
mic Integrity Code.³ 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 Outline⁴

• Part One:
  An Introduction to Labor Economics (Chapter 1)
  Labor Supply (Chapter 2)
  Labor Demand (Chapter 3)
  Equilibrium in Labor Market (Chapter 4)
  Labor Supply, Demand, and Equilibrium - Concluding Remarks

• Midterm exam (Ch. 1, 2, 3, and 4)
  Monday, 03/02 (10:30 - 11:20, Adams Hall 355)

²You may reach this center via phone. Voice: (405) 325-3852; TDD: (405) 325-4173
³A student’s guide to academic integrity is available at: https://integrity.ou.edu/students.html
⁴I reserve the right to make changes in the course outline.
Part Two:

- Compensating Wage Differentials (Chapter 5)
- Education (Chapter 6)
- The Wage Distribution (Chapter 7)
- Immigration (selected readings)
- Unemployment (selected readings)

Final exam (The main focus is on Ch. 5, 6, and 7 as well as selected topics in Immigration and Unemployment.)

Tuesday, 05/05 (8:00 - 10:00, Adams Hall 355)