

Econ 3513 (001) Labor Problems [Spring 2025]

Class Time: MWF 12 – 12:50pm Cate Center One 338

Instructor: Dr. Samantha Johnson

Email: samrjohnson@ou.edu

Office Location: Room 325 Cate Center 1

Office Hours: Thursdays 2-4pm

Prerequisites: A grade of C or better in 1113 and 1123.

Material Needed:

Labor Economics by George J. Borjas

ISBN: 978-0-07-802188-6

I will be using the 8th edition, but previous/newer editions should be fine. ***Connect is not required. Do not buy this book until we discuss it in class.***

Overview and Learning Objectives:

The objective of this course is to introduce students to important concepts regarding labor economics. By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) Have a better understanding of economic principles and concepts related to labor economics.
- 2) Derive both labor supply and demand curves from maximization problems.
- 3) Evaluate techniques involved in labor economics including government intervention, market fluctuations, and input changes including wages and technology.
- 4) Discuss implications involving social welfare.

Assignment Breakdown:

Grading for this class will consist of homework, a writing assignment, and exams. The breakdown is as follows:

Homework	20%
Presentation	20%

Midterm 1	20%
Midterm 2	20%
Final (Midterm 3)	20%
Attendance (Extra Credit)	Up to 10%

Homework:

There will be five homework assignments throughout the course of the semester. They will be due in Canvas by midnight on the assigned date (usually Sundays). The assignments can be typed or hand-written and then scanned (There are lots of free apps available. I like to use GeniusScan) and submitted to Canvas. Submitting a photo is also acceptable as long as the assignment is readable. You are allowed to work in groups; however, each person must submit their own assignment in Canvas. ***I will drop the lowest assignment, so only four homework assignments will count towards your final grade.*** In other words, each assignment will be approximately 5% of your grade. ***Since the lowest grade is dropped, I will not accept any late assignments.***

Presentation:

For this assignment, you will form groups of 3 to create your own Freakonomics-style topic. Your group will choose a question related to some labor economic topic we talked about, and answer that question using sources and data. It can be as weird/strange/abstract as you'd like as long as you can relate it to economics in some way. The goal of this assignment is to take the concepts we learn in class and apply it to a real situation. It will require additional sources and possibly data summarizing the issue, how it relates to economics, and answering the question/topic you chose. Each group will then present their topic for 12 minutes with 3 minutes for questions. These presentations will take place during the last week of class (if needed, we will use our final exam period for any remaining presentations. The university has scheduled our final exam period for Wednesday, May 7th from 1:30-3:30pm). Additional details can be found under the Files tab. There is a lot of potential here (and I'm giving points for creativity), so have some fun with it!

Exams:

There will be three exams during the semester each worth 20% of your grade. These tests will consist of short answer/essay, calculation, and graph-type questions. These will be very similar to the homework questions. These will all be closed book/note, but you are allowed a calculator. Exams cannot be made up except for very specific circumstances (university events, jury duty, etc.), and ***I must be told in advance***. Correct documentation may be needed to make-up a midterm or exam.

Attendance:

Attendance for this class is not required, but ***it is highly recommended!*** Throughout the semester, I will sporadically take attendance and award bonus points for those in class. These points are the only chance for extra credit during the semester. ***There is no chance to make up attendance points.***

Grading Scale:

I plan to use the following grading scale:

A: 90+ B: 80 – 89.99 C: 70 – 79.99 D: 60 – 69.99 F: <60

Tentative Schedule:

I will plan to follow this layout; however, this schedule is subject to change.

Date	Topic	Due Dates	Notes
Jan 13 - 19th	Introduction & Labor Supply		
Jan 20 - 26th	Labor Supply & Labor Demand		No Class Jan 20th
Jan 26 - Feb 2nd	Equilibrium	HW 1 – Feb 2nd	
Feb 3 - 9th	Compensating Differentials	HW 2 – Feb 9th	

Feb 10 - 16th	Compensating Differentials & Review		Tentative Midterm 1
Feb 17 - 23rd	Education		
Feb 24 - Mar 2nd	Education & Labor Mobility	HW 3 - Mar 2nd	
Mar 3 - 9th	Labor Mobility & Discrimination		
Mar 10 - 16th	Discrimination	HW 4 - Mar 16th	
Mar 17 - 23rd	Spring Break		No Class
Mar 24 - 30th	Review		Tentative Midterm 2
Mar 31 - Apr 6th	Unions		
Apr 7 - 13th	Unions & Strikes		
Apr 14 - 20th	Incentive Pay & Alternative Pay	HW 5 - April 20th	
Apr 21 - 27th	Alternative Pay & Review		Tentative Exam 3
Apr 28 - May 4th	Presentations		
May 5 - 10th	Presentations if needed		

University Policies
Academic Integrity:

The University of Oklahoma has very strict protocol on academic integrity, and cheating is strictly prohibited. All work (homework, exams, etc) in this course should be your own. Academic integrity violations can result in an F for an assignment, F for the course, and/or expulsion from the university. It is a very serious matter and will not be tolerated. For more information, please visit ou.edu/integrity.

Religious Observance:

It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to reschedule examinations and additional required classwork that may fall on religious holidays, without penalty. [\[See Faculty Handbook 3.15.2\]](#)

Reasonable Accommodation Policy:

The University of Oklahoma (OU) is committed to the goal of achieving equal educational opportunity and full educational participation for students with disabilities. If you have already established reasonable accommodations with the Accessibility and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), please [submit your semester accommodation request through the ADRC](#) as soon as possible and contact me privately, so that we have adequate time to arrange your approved academic accommodations.

If you have not yet established services through ADRC, but have a documented disability and require accommodations, please complete [ADRC's pre-registration form](#)[Links to an external site.](#) to begin the registration process. ADRC facilitates the interactive process that establishes reasonable accommodations for students at OU. For more information on ADRC registration procedures, please review their [Register with the ADRC](#) web page. You may also contact them at (405)325-3852 or adrc@ou.edu, or visit www.ou.edu/adrc for more information.

Note: disabilities may include, but are not limited to, mental health, chronic health, physical, vision, hearing, learning and attention disabilities, pregnancy-related. ADRC can also support students experiencing temporary medical conditions.

Adjustments for Pregnancy/Childbirth Related Issues:

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of pregnancy or a pregnancy-related condition, please request modifications via the [Institutional Equity Office](#) website or call the Institutional Equity Office at 405/325-3546 as soon as possible. Also, see the Institutional Equity Office [FAQ on Pregnant and Parenting Students' Rights](#) for answers to commonly asked questions.

Final Exam Preparation Period:

Pre-finals week will be defined as the seven calendar days before the first day of finals. Faculty may cover new course material throughout this week. For specific provisions of the policy please refer to OU's [Final Exam Preparation Period policy](#).

Emergency Protocol:

During an emergency, there are official university [procedures](#) that will maximize your safety.

Severe Weather: If you receive an OU Alert to seek refuge or hear a tornado siren that signals severe weather.

1. Look for severe weather refuge location maps located inside most OU buildings near the entrances.
2. Seek refuge inside a building. Do not leave one building to seek shelter in another building that you deem safer. If outside, get into the nearest building.
3. Go to the building's severe weather refuge location. If you do not know where that is, go to the lowest level possible and seek refuge in an innermost room. Avoid outside doors and windows.
4. Get in, Get Down, Cover Up
5. Wait for official notice to resume normal activities.

Additional [Weather Safety Information](#) is available through the Department of Campus Safety.

Armed Subject/Campus Intruder

The University of Oklahoma embraces a Run, Hide, Fight strategy for active threats on campus. This strategy is well known, widely accepted, and proven to save lives. To receive emergency campus alerts, be sure to update your contact information and preferences in the account settings section at one.ou.edu.

RUN: Running away from the threat is usually the best option. If it is safe to run, run as far away from the threat as possible. Call 911 when you are in a safe location and let them know from which OU campus you're calling from and location of active threat.

HIDE: If running is not practical, the next best option is to hide. Lock and barricade all doors; turn off all lights; turn down your phone's volume; search for improvised weapons; hide behind solid objects and walls; and hide yourself completely and stay quiet. Remain in place until law enforcement arrives. Be patient and remain hidden.

FIGHT: If you are unable to run or hide, the last best option is to fight. Have one or more improvised weapons with you and be prepared to attack. Attack them when they are least expecting it and hit them where it hurts most: the face (specifically eyes, nose, and ears), the throat, the diaphragm (solar plexus), and the groin.

Please save OUPD's contact information in your phone.

NORMAN campus: *For non-emergencies call (405) 325-1717. For emergencies call (405) 325-1911 or dial 911.*

TULSA campus: *For non-emergencies call (918) 660-3900. For emergencies call (918) 660-3333 or dial 911.*

Fire Alarm/General Emergency

If you receive an OU Alert that there is danger inside or near the building, or the fire alarm inside the building activates:

1. *LEAVE* the building. Do not use the elevators.
2. *KNOW* at least two building exits
3. *ASSIST* those that may need help
4. *PROCEED* to the emergency assembly area
5. *ONCE safely outside, NOTIFY first responders of anyone that may still be inside building due to mobility issues.*
6. *WAIT* for official notice before attempting to re-enter the building.

[OU Fire Safety on Campus](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

Mental Health Support Services:

Support is available for any student experiencing mental health issues that are impacting their academic success. Students can either be seen at the University Counseling Center (UCC) located on the second floor of Goddard Health Center or receive 24/7/365 crisis support from a licensed mental health provider through [TELUS Health](#). To schedule an appointment or receive more information about mental health resources at OU please call the UCC at 405-325-2911 or visit [University Counseling Center](#). The UCC is located at 620 Elm Ave., Room 201, Norman, OK 73019.

Title IX Resources and Reporting Requirement:

The University of Oklahoma faculty are committed to creating a safe learning environment for all members of our community, free from gender and sex-based discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, in accordance with Title IX. There are resources available to those impacted, including: speaking with someone confidentially about your options, medical attention, counseling, reporting, academic support, and safety plans. If you have (or someone you know has) experienced any form of sex or gender-based discrimination or violence and wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact [OU Advocates](#) (available 24/7 at 405-615-0013) or [University Counseling Center](#) (M-F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 405-325-2911).

Because the University of Oklahoma is committed to the safety of you and other students, and because of our Title IX obligations, I, as well as other faculty, Graduate Assistants, and Teaching Assistants, are mandatory reporters. This means that we are obligated to report gender-based violence that has been disclosed to us to the Institutional Equity Office. This means that we are obligated to report gender-based violence that has been disclosed to us to the Institutional Equity Office. This includes disclosures that occur in: class discussion, writing assignments, discussion boards, emails and during Student/Office Hours. You may also choose to report directly to the Institutional Equity Office. After a report is filed, the Title IX Coordinator will reach out to provide resources, support, and information and the reported information will remain private. For more information regarding the University's Title IX Grievance procedures, reporting, or support measures, please visit [Institutional Equity Office](#) at 405-325-3546.

AI Policy:

This course assumes that work submitted by students – all process work, drafts, brainstorming artifacts, final works – will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups as directed by class assignment instructions. This policy indicates the following constitute violations of academic honesty: a student has another person/entity do the work of any substantive portion of a graded assignment for them, which includes purchasing work from a company, hiring a person or company to complete an assignment or exam, and/or using generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT).

Lauren's Promise:

I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you.

Lauren McCluskey, a 21-year-old honors student athlete, was murdered on Oct. 22, 2018, by a man she briefly dated on the University of Utah campus. We must all take actions to ensure that this never happens again. If you are in immediate danger, call 911. If you are experiencing sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking, please report it to me, and I will connect you to resources or call OU Advocates. Any form of sexual harassment or violence will not be excused or tolerated at the University of Oklahoma. OU has instituted procedures to respond to violations of these laws and standards, programs aimed at the prevention of such conduct, and intervention on behalf of the victims. OU/OUHSC police officers will treat victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking with respect and dignity. Confidentiality is of the utmost importance, and OU/OUHSC police will assist by providing resources to victims. In addition to its law enforcement efforts regarding sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking, they can refer victims to the appropriate university and/or local community counseling and other resources devoted to assisting victims. Advocates help survivors determine their own needs in regard to their physical and emotional health, reporting options, and academic concerns. They connect survivors to campus and community services, and provide accompaniment to important appointments (court, hospital, and police) and support throughout the process. They can also connect you with advocacy services, if desired. The local advocacy group is YWCA Community Domestic Violence Advocacy, whose services are free, immediate, and confidential. They can be reached at (405) 948-1770. They also offer 24/7 advocates at (405) 917-9922 and 1-800-522-7233.

OU Food Pantry:

College students often (on average, 1 in 3) face food insecurity. For anyone facing food insecurity, the OU food pantry is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday from 10am-6pm at 333 Cate Center Drive, Norman, OK. All OU students are eligible, and there is no paperwork (all you need is your student ID). More information can be found here: <https://www.ou.edu/foodpantry>.

This syllabus and everything contained within are subject to change at the professor's discretion.