

# ECON 4616 - Labor Economics

Spring 2019  
MWF 1:00PM-2:00PM ECON 117

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Office: ECON 206C

Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00AM - 12:00PM, 1:00PM-2:00PM  
Friday 2:00PM - 3:00PM

January 11, 2019

## **1 Course Overview**

The first objective of this course is to expose students to basic economic theory governing the determination of the level of wages and employment in the labor market. Thus, the course will begin with the classic models of labor supply and labor demand, and will then address more recent developments regarding job search frictions, discrimination, human capital development, performance incentives, non-wage benefits, and automation.

The second objective of this course is to develop students' ability to test the theories presented in class using labor market data. Thus, considerable attention will be focused on how to formulate an economic model, isolate its testable predictions, and select and transform data so that such predictions can be evaluated.

## **2 Prerequisites**

The prerequisite for this course is Economics 3070 (Intermediate Microeconomic Theory)

## **3 Assignments and Grading**

Weekly problem sets will be distributed that are designed to reinforce and expand upon

## 5 Course Website

Students should enroll in this course's Canvas webpage. This syllabus will be posted there, along with problem sets, announcements, and grades.

## 6 Course Schedule

A tentative schedule of lecture topics, textbook reading assignments, and exam dates is provided below. The chapters listed refer to Ehrenberg and Smith's *Modern Labor Economics*, 11th edition. Note that in addition to Martin Luther King Day (January 21st) and Spring Break (March 25th/27th/29th), there will also be no class on Monday, April 15th due to preexisting commitments of the professor. The dates of these classes are replaced with \NC" for \no class" on the course schedule below.

Week	Topics	Book Chapters
Jan 14/16/18	Introducing the Economic Model& Perfect Competition	Ch. 1
Jan NC/23/25	Perfect Competition & Intro. to Labor Demand	Ch. 2 & 3
J/F 28/30/1	Labor Demand with Competitive Markets	Ch. 3 & 4
Feb 4/6/8	Workers vs. Hours/Worker	Ch. 5
Feb 11/13/15	<b>1st Midterm Exam &amp; Automation</b>	Not in book
Feb 18/20/22	Worker Utility Max.	Ch. 6
F/M 25/27/1	Labor Supply	Ch. 7
Mar 4/6/8	Welfare Policy & <b>2nd Midterm Exam</b>	Ch. 7
Mar 11/13/15	Occupational Sorting	Ch. 8
Mar 18/20/22	Human Capital	Ch. 9
Mar NC/NC/NC	Spring Break	
Apr 1/3/5	Signalling	Ch. 9
Apr 8/10/12	Wage Contracts & Performance Incentives	Ch. 11
Apr NC/17/19	Unemployment	Ch. 14
Apr 22/24/26	Unemployment & Discrimination	Ch. 12 & 14
A/M 29/1/NC	Discrimination & Review	Ch. 12
May 6th	<b>Final Exam</b>	

## 7 Clickers

Students are required to have a clicker for this class and extra batteries for each class. Clicker information will be used to help determine your attendance and participation grade. You are responsible for purchasing and registering the your clicker by Jan. 14th. Information on how to register clickers is available at <http://www.colorado.edu/oit/tutorial/cuclickers-iclicker-remote-registration>. Make sure you use your identity key log in name so your clicker number can be matched to the grade roster. If you have any problems with your clickers call IT at 5HELP. Remember that using someone elses clicker for them violates the honor

## **8 Attendance**

Students who do not attend at least two of the first three classes may be administratively dropped from the course in favor of students on the wait list.

## **9 Disabilities**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member by the end of the second week of class so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the Disability Services website ([www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students)).

materials, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code Council and will receive a failing grade for the course. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at the Honor Code Office website.

## **14 Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation**

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. CUs Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibits sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking or related retaliation. CU Boulders Discrimination and Harassment Policy prohibits discrimination, harassment or related retaliation based on race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct under either policy should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation can be found at the OIEC website.