Economics 360-101: Labor Economics
Fall Semester 2014

Instructor: Paul E. Gabriel
Office: Room 532, 1 East Pearson Building (Maguire Hall)
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m., and by appointment
Office Phone: (312) 915-6070; e-mail: pgabrie@luc.edu
Course Schedule: Tuesday & Thursday, 1:00 – 2:15 pm, CLC, room 321
Course Prerequisites: Economics 201 and Economics 202; Economics 303 is recommended


Course Description:
This course is an intensive examination of the market for labor services. The topics covered during the semester include wage determination, occupational and earnings differentials, investments in education and training, and other labor market issues.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:
Students will gain a broad understanding of how economists study labor market issues and outcomes, and be able to use critical economic reasoning to better appreciate such issues as labor force participation decisions, human capital, and the variation in wages across individuals.

Grading:
Your course grade will be based on a combination of examinations and written assignments. There will be two examinations during the semester, and a final examination. Each exam is worth 25% of your final grade. The remaining 25% of your grade is determined by one essay assignment (15%) and three homework assignments (10%). The guidelines for the essay are given below. Please note: late assignments are NOT accepted.

Grading Scale:

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92% - 100%</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>89% - 91%</td>
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Important Dates:
- September 25 (Thursday) Exam 1
- October 30 (Thursday) Exam 2
- December 4 (Thursday) Essay Assignment Due
- December 12 (Friday) Final Exam (1:00 – 3:00 p.m.)
Economics 360  
Tentative Course Outline

I. Introduction and Overview of Labor Markets:  Chapter 1 
   Chapter 18 (pp. 537-545)

II. The Neoclassical Theory of Labor Supply:  Chapters 2, 3

III. The Neoclassical Theory of Labor Demand:  Chapter 5

Exam 1-- September 25, 2014

IV. Labor Market Equilibrium and the Structure of Wages:  Chapters 6, 8

V. Human Capital Analysis:  Chapter 4

Exam 2 -- October 30, 2014

VI. Labor Market Mobility  Chapter 9

VII. Labor Market Inequality:  Chapters 16, 14

VIII. Unions and Collective Bargaining:  Chapter 11

• Additional Topics in Labor Markets, as time permits.

• Further reading assignments will be made in class.
General Guidelines for the Essay Assignment

Your essay should be between 7 - 8 type-written pages (double-spaced) and must be properly referenced, with at least 3 sources other than the textbook. At least one source should be an article from a professional journal. Please refer to the list below for suggested reference sources. The essay should address a current labor market topic (see examples below), and, where appropriate, discuss mainstream views as well as any dissenters to the mainstream view. The choice of topic may affect the organization of your essay.

Possible Essay Topics:

Labor Market Inequality
Minimum Wage Issues
Earnings Disparities by Race/Gender
The Labor Market Implications of “Out-sourcing”
The labor market impacts of the “Baby Boom”
Recent trends in male/female Labor Force Participation Rates
Immigrant Workers: Labor Market Issues
The Retirement Decision
Labor Market Issues in the Sports Industry
On-the-Job Training or other Human Capital Topics
International Comparisons of Wages and Employment Patterns
Alternative Work Arrangements: Telecommuting, Flextime, Work Sharing, etc.
Unions: History, Impact on Earnings, U.S., Local (variety of topics)
Unemployment and Underemployment

Possible Reference Sources for Essay Assignment:

Academic Journals
Scholarly journals contain articles in which economists report new theories, new evidence, or new techniques for testing established theories. The primary audience for these articles are economists and other specialists in economics.

These articles often require a fairly high level of technical expertise in economic theory, mathematics, and statistics. However, the basic conclusions of articles can be gleaned through careful reading. As an undergraduate student of economics, you are primarily responsible for the basic conclusions reached by the authors of such articles.
Journals in the field of labor economics and industrial relations:

- *Journal of Human Resources*
- *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*
- *Industrial Relations Journal*
- *Journal of Labor Economics*
- *Journal of Labor Research*
- *International Labor Review*
- *Monthly Labor Review*

General economics journals often containing labor-specific articles:

- *American Economic Review*
- *Journal of Political Economy*
- *Journal of Economic Literature*
- *Economic Inquiry*
- *Eastern Economic Journal*

**Other Sources**

There are numerous other professional general interest journals for students of labor economics. *Harvard Business Review,* and *Challenge: A Magazine of Economic Affairs* are possible sources. Also, magazines and newspapers (e.g., *Time, The Economist, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal*) occasionally publish articles on current labor economics issues that serve as helpful starting points for identifying academic sources. The references outlined here are merely suggestions on sources of information for your paper. There are numerous other sources of information available to you, depending upon your topic. If you have questions, please see me for help.
Quinlan School of Business Policies:

Attendance
Class attendance and participation are fundamental components of learning, so punctual attendance at all classes, for the full class meeting period, is expected of Quinlan students. The student is responsible for any assignments or requirements missed during an absence.

Make-Up Examinations
Loyola University academic policy provides that tests or examinations may be given during the semester or summer sessions as often as deemed advisable by the instructor. Because Quinlan faculty believe examinations represent a critical component of student learning, required examinations should be taken during the regularly scheduled class period. For this course, if you miss an exam during the semester, the weight of that exam is shifted to the final. Exceptions may be granted only by the faculty member or department chair, and only for unavoidable circumstances (illness verified by a signed physician’s note, participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, bereavement, or religious observance). Make-up exams will not be scheduled if the graded exam has been distributed to the class. A make-up final examination may be scheduled only with the permission of the appropriate Quinlan Assistant or Associate Dean.

Academic Integrity
All members of the Quinlan School shall refrain from academic dishonesty and misconduct in all forms, including plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation, fabrication, and falsehood. Plagiarism or cheating on the part of the student in individual or group academic work or in examination behavior will result minimally in the instructor assigning the grade of “F” for the assignment or examination. In addition, all instances of academic dishonesty must be reported to the chairperson of the department involved.

For further information about expectations for academic integrity and sanctions for violations, consult the complete Quinlan School of Business Honor Code and Statement of Academic Integrity on the Quinlan website: