

Labor Economics – Econ 3100-001

Syllabus, Spring 2012

Credits-3

Kartik Verma
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Lecture Hours: Tues/Thurs, 9:10-10:30 AM, MBH 302

Office Hours: Wed/Thurs 10:30-11:30 AM or by Appointment.

Course Description: The objective of the course is to convey an understanding of the roles and functions of the labor market. We begin with an overview of the U.S. labor market. We then study the foundations of the mainstream labor market model mainly through graph theory. We then look at some of the policy implications associated with labor market theory. Finally, we study some of the macroeconomic issues associated with the labor market.

Prerequisite: There are no listed prerequisites but a basic knowledge of graph theory is recommended. Some knowledge of microeconomics (at the principles level) will be very helpful. We will review some of these tools in the first week of the semester.

Teaching Methods: Regular Lectures and Discussions.

Topics Covered: Labor demand, Labor supply, Human Capital theory, Discrimination, Monopsony, Trade Unions, Unemployment, Labor Mobility.

Text: Labor Economics: Introduction to Classic and the New Labor Economics, Derek Laing, 1st edition.

Chapters Covered: 1-5, 7-9, 11-12, 18-19, 21-22, 32 (web chapter)

WebCT: I will post the lecture slides on WebCT. I will also upload a copy of chapter 32 (web chapter).

Grading and Exam Dates:

Assignments (2) 30% of the grade.

Midterm exam (Thursday, February 23rd 2012, 9:10-10:30 am)

Final exam (Thursday, May 3rd 2012, 8-10 am).

The two exams will account for 70% of the grade.

Both the midterm and the final exam are closed notes and in-class. The final exam will be non-cumulative.

The exams will include objective type questions, short-answer questions as well as longer essay-type questions.

Course Schedule:

	Topics	Reading
Week 1	Introduction	Chapter 1
Week 2-6	The U.S. Labor Market	Chapter 2
	Part I: Foundations	Chapters 3-5, 7
	Part II: Applications & Extensions	Chapter 8
February 21 st , 2012	Review for Midterm Exam	
February 23 rd , 2012	Midterm Examination	
Week 8-14	Part II: Applications & Extensions	Chapters 9, 11-12
	Part III: The Employment Relation	Chapter 18, 32
	Part IV: The Aggregate Labor Market	Chapter 19, 21-22
April 24 th , 2012	Review for Final Exam	
May 3 rd , 2012	Final Examination	

Statement on Equal Access:

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services (CDS), 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.