

**Labor Economics – Econ 3100-001**

Syllabus, Summer 2014

Credits-3

Fulfills **QI (Quantitative Intensive)** requirement.

Kartik Verma

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University of Utah

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**Lecture Hours:** M/W: 6 pm – 9 pm, OSH 234

**Office Hours:** M/W: 4 pm – 6 pm or by Appointment.

**Course Description:** Labor-market economics, wage theory, human-resource development, unionism, discrimination, collective bargaining, employment, and public policy.

**Course Objectives:** 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.

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

The Economics of Labor Markets, Kaufman and Hotchkiss, 7th edition.

**Chapters Covered:** 1-5, 7-9, 11-12 (Laing) + 11, 12, 13 (Kaufman and Hotchkiss). We might study chapters 19, 20 and 21 from Laing (if time permits).

**Canvas:** I will post the lecture slides on Canvas. I will also upload relevant parts from the Kaufman and Hotchkiss book (chapters 11, 12 and 13). I will also upload other relevant articles and study material online.

**Canvas email:** All major announcements will be made through Canvas email. All students are expected to read these announcements regularly. The students may get in touch with me either via Canvas email or at kartik.verma@utah.edu.

### Grading and Exam Dates:

Assignments (4) 60% of the grade.

(Assignments may be submitted during class hours or electronically at kartik.verma@utah.edu or Canvas email.)

Final exam (Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup> 2014, 6pm – 8 pm).

The final exam will account for 40% of the grade.

The final exam is “closed notes and in-class”.

The final exam will include short-answer questions as well as longer essay-type questions.

### Grading Scale:

$A \geq 90$ ,  $83 \leq A- < 90$ ,

$76 \leq B+ < 83$ ,  $69 \leq B < 76$ ,  $62 \leq B- < 69$ ,

$55 \leq C+ < 62$ ,  $48 \leq C < 55$ ,  $41 \leq C- < 48$ ,

$34 \leq D+ < 41$ ,  $27 \leq D < 34$ ,  $20 \leq D- < 27$ ,

$E < 20$ .

### Course Schedule:

	Topics	Reading
Week 1	Introduction	Chapter 1
	The U.S. Labor Market	Chapter 2
	Part I: Foundations	Chapter 3
Week 2	Part I: Foundations	Chapters 3, 4
Week 3	Part I: Foundations	Chapters 7, 5, 8
Week 4	Part II: Applications & Extensions	Chapters 9, 11, 12
Week 5/6	Labor Unions / Unemployment	Chapters 11*, 12*, 13*
July 30th, 2014	Review for Final Exam	
August 1st, 2014	Final Examination	

\* = Chapters from Kaufman-Hotchkiss

**Assignment Schedule:**

	<b>Assignment Handed Out</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>	<b>Chapters Covered (tentative)</b>
Assignment 1	6/25	7/2 or 7/5 (electronic)	1, 2, 3
Assignment 2	6/30	7/9 or 7/12 (electronic)	3, 4, 7
Assignment 3	7/7	7/16 or 7/19 (electronic)	5, 8, 9
Assignment 4	7/14	7/23 or 7/26 (electronic)	11, 12, 11*, 12*, 13*

**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.