

Prepared on 1/18/2016

Economics 4290.001

Labor Economics

Classroom: Gateway 137

Office: 254B Hickory Hall

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Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 1:00 pm-3:00 pm; Wednesdays 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm; & by appt

Spring 2016

Dr. Michael Nieswiadomy

Class time: Wednesday 6:30-9:20 p.m.

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Text: Labor Economics, by Ronald G. Ehrenberg & Robert S. Smith, Pearson 2015.

This course is designed to analyze the demand and supply of labor and the effects of government policy on labor markets. Real world examples will be utilized to demonstrate the theoretical models developed in class. Please read the assigned material before class.

<u>Course Outline</u>		
<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
	<i>Jan. 18</i>	<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, UNT closed</i>
Ch. 1	Jan. 20	Introduction
Ch. 2	Jan. 20	Overview of the Labor Market
Ch. 3	Jan. 27	The Demand for Labor
Ch. 4	Feb. 3	Labor Demand Elasticities
Ch. 5	Feb. 10	Frictions in the Labor Market
Ch. 6	Feb. 17	Supply of Labor to the Economy: the Decision to Work
	Feb. 24 (1 <sup>st</sup> half of class)	Exam 1
Ch. 7	Feb. 24 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)	Labor Supply: Household Production, the Family, and the Life Cycle
	<i>Feb. 26 Last day to drop a course with a "W" if you are not passing</i>	
Ch. 8	Mar. 2	Compensating Wage Differentials and Labor Markets
Ch. 9	March 9	Investments in Human Capital: Education and Training
	<i>March 14-20</i>	<i>Spring Break week – No Class</i>
Ch. 10	March 23	Worker Mobility: Migration, immigration, and Turnover
	March 30 (1 <sup>st</sup> half of class)	Exam 2
Ch. 11	Mar 30 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)	Pay and Productivity: Wage Determination Within the Firm
	<i>April 5</i>	<i>Last day to drop with consent of professor</i>
Ch. 12	April 6	Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in the Labor Market
Ch. 13	April 13	Unions and the Labor Market
Ch. 14	April 20	Unemployment
Ch. 15	April 27	Inequality in Earnings
Ch. 16	May 4	The Labor Market Effect of International Trade and Production Sharing

May 11 (Wednesday) 6:30 p.m. – 9:20 p.m. Final Exam

### **Homeworks**

You will be assigned periodic homeworks using handouts, Excel computer problems, and the Wall Street Journal. You can get a student discount to the Wall Street Journal by going to <http://wsj.com/studentoffer>

### **Pop quizzes**

Pop quizzes can be given at any time. Always read the lecture material before coming to class.

### **Points**

Exam 1 is worth 25% of your semester grade. Exam 2 is worth 25% of your semester grade. The final (comprehensive) exam is worth 30% of your semester grade. 20% is based on homeworks and on pop quizzes. The grading scale is:

A: 90-100%

B: 80-89%

C: 70-79%

D: 60-69%

F: below 60%.

### **Grading**

The grading assignment will be as follows:

A: 90%-100%   B: 80%-89%   C: 70%-79%   D: 60%-69%   F: below 60%

### ***Attendance Policy***

Attendance at **every** class meeting is essential to understanding the material. Unless you are an exceptionally gifted student, your grade will be positively related to the number of times you attend class. To encourage your attendance, I will give pop quizzes. These pop quizzes will determine if you know the general topics that will be lectured on that day. A few pop quizzes will be dropped. If you miss a quiz you will receive a zero and most likely it will be dropped unless you miss a significantly large number. It is to your advantage to take all of the quizzes so that you will be able to drop your lowest scores.

Also, please note that in accordance with university policy I will give students a WF for non-attendance during Feb. 27 – April 22, 2016 time frame if a student has missed 50% or more of the scheduled classes during the semester.

If a student misses an exam without a university excuse, the student will receive a grade of zero. To the extent possible, please inform me in advance if you must miss an exam.

### ***Cell Phones***

Turn off your cell phone during class. Do not use it during class. If you use it during class, I will subtract one point from your semester grade for each violation. You will receive one warning.

### **Cheating and Plagiarism**

The UNT Department of Economics adheres to the University's Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism. To view the complete policy go to <https://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>

**Cheating:** The use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to:

1. use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes or other assessments;
2. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments;
3. acquisition, without permission, of tests, notes or other academic materials belonging to a faculty or staff member of the University;
4. dual submission of a paper or project, or re-submission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor;
5. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.

**Plagiarism:** Use of another's thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student's intent, including but not limited to:

1. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement or citation.
2. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.

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### **Disability Accommodation**

If you have a disability for which you will require accommodation under the terms of the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, please discuss your needs with me after class or at office hours.

The Economics Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have not registered with ODA, we encourage you to do so. Please present your written accommodation request on or before the 4th class day.