

Labor Economics
ECONOMICS 306D, 3 CREDITS
Tuesday and Thursday 12:15 – 1:30 PM
Bernard J. Brommel Hall – Room 325

William Foster
Office: Library TBD
Office Hours: Thursday 3 - 4
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"Everything in the world is purchased by labour"

– David Hume (1711 – 1776), *Essays, Of Commerce*

"The property which every man has in his own labour; as it is the original foundation of all other property, so it is the most sacred and inviolable..."

– Adam Smith (1723 – 1790), *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*

INTRODUCTION

This course is a more intricate study of labor markets than is offered in the standard microeconomics courses. We will be applying economic theory to labor markets and related economic phenomena including but not limited to: earnings, employment, unemployment, worker mobility, and discrimination.

Students are expected to attend all classes. Attendance and class participation will make up a portion of the final grade. Lectures will be crucial for understanding the material. Students are also expected to have completed the readings before each class.

REQUIRED TEXT

Labor Economics
George J. Borjas
Fifth Edition
Publisher: McGraw-Hill
ISBN: 0073511366

Your final grade will be determined by:

	EACH	TOTAL
BLACKBOARD QUIZZES	5 %	25 %
ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION	15 %	15 %
MIDTERM EXAMS	20 %	40 %
FINAL EXAM	20 %	20 %

BLACKBOARD: Blackboard is an instrumental part of this course. You can access Northeastern's Blackboard system at: <http://neu.blackboard.com/>

PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism is “the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work”¹. If you are suspected of plagiarizing, you will be brought up on charges by the university. If you are found guilty you may be dismissed from the university.

1. **The Random House Dictionary.** (2010). In *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Retrieved August 19, 2010, from Encyclopædia Britannica Online: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/491056/The-Random-House-Dictionary>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students with Faculty Contact Sheets for this class need to present them to the instructor as soon as possible. Other students requiring reasonable accommodations, as covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact the Accessibility Center to discuss needed accommodations. Questions and requests for reasonable accommodations should be directed to Building D, Room 104, phone (773) 442-5495.

Course Outline

Week	Day	Date	Due	Title	Due	Text
1	Tu	August 30, 2011	-----	Introduction	-----	Ch. 1
	Th	September 1, 2011	-----	Labor Supply	-----	Ch. 2
2	Tu	September 6, 2011	-----	Labor Demand	-----	Ch. 3
	Th	September 8, 2011	-----			
3	Tu	September 13, 2011	Q1	Labor Market Equilibrium	Q1	Ch. 4
	Th	September 15, 2011	-----			
4	Tu	September 20, 2011	-----	Compensating Differentials	-----	Ch. 5
	Th	September 22, 2011	-----			
5	Tu	September 27, 2011	Q2	MIDTERM REVIEW	Q2	
	Th	September 29, 2011	-----	***** MIDTERM I *****	-----	
6	Tu	October 4, 2011	-----	Human Capital	-----	Ch. 6
	Th	October 6, 2011	-----			
7	Tu	October 11, 2011	-----	The Wage Structure	-----	Ch. 7
	Th	October 13, 2011	-----			
8	Tu	October 18, 2011	-----	Labor Mobility	-----	Ch. 8
	Th	October 20, 2011	Q3			
9	Tu	October 25, 2011	-----	Labor Market Discrimination	-----	Ch. 9
	Th	October 27, 2011	-----			
10	Tu	November 1, 2011	Q4	MIDTERM REVIEW	Q4	
	Th	November 3, 2011	-----	***** MIDTERM I *****	-----	
11	Tu	November 8, 2011	-----	Labor Unions	-----	Ch. 10
	Th	November 10, 2011	-----			
12	Tu	November 15, 2011	-----	Incentive Pay	-----	Ch. 11
	Th	November 17, 2011	-----			
13	Tu	November 22, 2011	Q5	Applications and Current Events	Q5	
	Th	November 24, 2011	-----	***** THANKSGIVING - NO CLASS *****	-----	
14	Tu	November 29, 2011	-----	Unemployment	-----	Ch. 12
	Th	December 1, 2011	-----			
15	Tu	December 6, 2011	-----	FINAL EXAM REVIEW	-----	
	Th	December 8, 2011	-----	FINAL EXAM REVIEW	-----	
FINAL	Tu	December 13, 2011	-----	***** FINAL EXAM @ 10:00 AM*****	-----	

QUIZ #1 SEPTEMBER 13

QUIZ #2 SEPTEMBER 27 EXAM I SEPTEMBER 29

QUIZ #3 OCTOBER 20 EXAM II NOVEMBER 3

QUIZ #4 NOVEMBER 1 FINAL DECEMBER 13

QUIZ #5 NOVEMBER 22

**ALL QUIZZES ARE DUE BY
11:59 PM OF THE DATE
SPECIFIED**

**NOVEMBER 11TH IS THE LAST DAY FOR UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS TO DROP A CLASS OR COMPLETELY WITHDRAW
FROM FALL SEMESTER (NO FINANCIAL CREDIT)**