

University of Oregon
Department of Economics
Summer 2022

Syllabus for EC 350: Labor Market Issues

MTWR 2:00 pm – 3:50 pm on Zoom

Instructor: Emily Arnesen

Class: Zoom, Meeting ID: 972 0089 7400 or [Link](#)
Office Hours: MTWR 4:00-5:00, or by appointment (send email to schedule) via [Zoom](#)
Email: earnesen@uoregon.edu
Course Website: Canvas
Textbook: Contemporary Labor Economics, 11th or 12th ed.

Course Objectives: The objective of this course is to provide students with an introduction to labor markets and a theoretical overview of how these markets function. During the first portion of the class we will be studying labor supply, labor demand, and human capital investment; in the latter portion of the course, we will move on to discussing associated topics such as government involvement, unions, inequality, and discrimination in different forms.

Prerequisites: The prerequisite for this course is EC 201 (Principles of Microeconomics) or equivalent.

Textbook/Readings: Contemporary Labor Economics (11th or 12th ed.) by McConnell, Brue and Macpherson (referred to later as MBM). A physical textbook or digital version of the textbook is acceptable. I will post on Canvas the specific sections of the book we will cover in class and if there are any parts of chapters we will be skipping. I reserve the right to amend the assigned reading as this course progresses.

We will also read a couple of scholarly journal articles related to labor economics. This is to provide you with some additional applications of the concepts we learned as well as introduce you to what labor economics research looks like. I will post these articles to Canvas.

Attendance: I encourage you to come to class. Attendance is not mandatory, but the course moves fast and covers a lot of material, and it is very easy to fall behind, especially during summer. Coming to class is the best way to avoid that. I plan to record the Zoom lectures and post them on our class Canvas page.

Assessment: There will be final exam during our last scheduled class meeting, a take-home midterm, as well as weekly problem sets, and a simulation project with a write up. Your final course grade will be determined as follows:

30%	Problem Sets
10%	Simulation Participation/Write Up
Up to 4%	In Class Participation (Extra Credit)
25%	Midterm
35%	Final [Thursday, July 14, 2022]

The traditional grade scale (90-100% → an A of some kind, 80-89% → a B of some kind, et cetera, modified by + and - where applicable) will be used as a baseline when determining course grades. The letter grades will never be worse than the traditional grade scale would imply, but a curve favorable to students may be applied depending on the overall performance of the class.

Those students taking this course pass/fail must earn a “C-” in the course in order to receive a passing grade. You will receive no grade in this course if it is found that you have not received a “C-” or better in the prerequisite EC201. Further, if you are not able to write the final exam for any reason, drop the course now (i.e., the “no makeup” policy below is not negotiable.)

Problem Sets

There will be one weekly homework set due each week for a total of four problem sets. These problem sets will be turned in through Canvas. You will need a way to turn in written homework problems. A few ways that have worked for students in the past: writing homework solutions on a tablet or iPad, scanning written assignments using a built-in scanner on a printer, using an app on their phone to scan assignments (I recommend CamScanner), or taking pictures of the assignment and uploading the images.

- The due date and time for each assignment is 11:59 pm each Saturday.
- I will post the problem sets on Canvas by the Monday that we start covering the material on the problem set. Each problem set contains multiple choice, fill in the blank, and written answer questions.
- I have set Canvas to accept two submissions of your problem set. This is so if you accidentally hit “submit” before you were finished, you can go through and submit the problem set again.
- All problem sets carry the same weight.
- Your lowest problem set score will be dropped. This means that each problem set is worth 10% of your final grade.

Late problem set policy: I do not accept late problem sets.

Simulation Participation/Write Up

We will be doing a simulation in which you need to make decisions based on what we have learned in class. You will also write a 600-word report/reflection. You will be graded on your participation in the simulation and the written portion. The reflection is due Saturday, July 16, at 11:59 pm and cannot be turned in late. More details will be posted on Canvas.

Midterm Exam

The midterm will be take home and will be open Thursday, June 30, 2022, at 4:00 pm and close on Sunday, July 3, 2022, at 11:59 pm. You must take the exam sometime during this timeframe. This exam is open book and open note, and it will include multiple choice, short-form and long-form questions. The exam will be administered on Canvas.

Final Exam

The final be on Thursday, July 14, 2022. The exam will open from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, and you will have 1 hour and 50 minutes to take the exam, so you must start by 3:10 pm to have the entire allotted time. This allows you to take this exam during our normal class time. Since this is an online course,

the final exam will be open note and open book, and will be based on multiple choice, short-form and long-form questions. The exam will be administered on Canvas.

General Exam Policies

- You will have 1 hour and 50 minutes to take each exam and the time cannot be stopped once started.
- You are to work by yourself on the exam.
- I would recommend having a calculator nearby as you may need one (a basic calculator is fine).
- Be aware that there will be some questions in which you may need to draw a graph or do something else in which you will need to be able to scan your answer.
- For the final exam, I will be on Zoom during this time in our class Zoom link to answer any questions that you may have during the exam. You can also email me during the exam with questions. You do not have to be on Zoom while you are taking the final exam.
- The final is cumulative, but more material will be from the latter portion of the class.

There are no make up exams.

Re-Grades: Any requests for re-grades on any assignment must be submitted in writing within *two days* of when the assignment is graded. A re-grade request should include an argument of why you feel your answer was correct. I reserve the right to re-grade the entire assignment when a re-grade request is made.

Extra Help: Office hours are scheduled to provide opportunities for one-on-one help. Please reach out to me if my office hours do not work for you and you would like to meet. I am happy to meet with you at a different time. There are many good examples from the book that provide explanations of many concepts that will be taught in this course.

Academic Integrity: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please acquaint yourself with the Student Conduct Code, which is available at conduct.uoregon.edu.

Among other things, it is not allowed to let another student copy problem sets or to copy answers to problem sets from any source. Copying cheats you of the practice necessary to succeed on exams. If I observe that you copy homework answers or answer keys in any fashion, I will give you zero credit for all homework assignments for the class. If you have questions about the boundaries between working on homework assignments jointly and copying them, ask me for clarification.

Any violations of the Student Conduct Code will result in a failing grade for the course. In addition, an incident report will be filed with the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

Student Athletes: If you are a student athlete and will need special accommodations, it is your responsibility to notify me in a timely and appropriate manner, and to support your request for special accommodations by providing appropriate documentation.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Readings
6/21/22	Introduction, Syllabus, Review of EC 201 and Labor Economics Introduction	MBM Ch 1
6/22/22	Labor Supply	MBM Ch 2
6/23/22	Labor Supply and Labor Demand	MBM Ch 2 and Ch 5
6/27/22	Labor Demand	MBM Ch 5 and Peri et al. (2020)
6/28/22	Labor Market Equilibrium and Wages	MBM Ch 6
6/29/22	Human Capital	MBM Ch 4 and Artega (2018)
6/30/22	Human Capital and Midterm Review	MBM Ch 4
7/5/22	Alternative Pay Schemes and Wage Differentials	MBM Ch 7 and Ch 8
7/6/22	Government and Regulation	MBM Ch 12 and Ch 13
7/7/22	Government and Regulation	MBM Ch 12 and Ch 13 and Jarmin et al. (2017)
7/11/22	Mobility and Unions	MBM Ch 9, Ch 10 and Ch 11 (selected parts)
7/12/22	Labor Market Discrimination	MBM Ch 14 and Bertrand et al. (2004)
7/13/22	Labor Market Discrimination and Final Review	MBM Ch 14 and Agan and Starr (2014)
7/14/22	Final Exam	

IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Time (all times are PDT)	Assignment
6/25/22	11:59 pm	Homework 1 due
7/2/22	11:59 pm	Homework 2 due
7/2/22	11:59 pm	Midterm Exam due
7/9/22	11:59 pm	Homework 3 due
7/14/22	5:00 pm (exam closes)	Final Exam
7/16/22	11:59 pm	Simulation Write Up due
7/16/22	11:59 pm	Homework 4 due

General Policies

Academic Disruption due to Campus Emergency

In the event of a campus emergency that disrupts academic activities, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to change. Information about changes in this course will be communicated as soon as possible by email, and on Canvas. Students are also expected to continue coursework as outlined in this syllabus or other instructions on Canvas.

Accessible Education

Please let me know within the first week of the term if you need assistance to fully participate in the course. Participation includes access to lectures, web-based information, in-class activities, and exams. The Accessible Education Center (<http://aec.uoregon.edu/>) works with students to provide an instructor notification letter that outlines accommodations and adjustments to class design that will enable better access. Contact the Accessible Education Center for assistance with access or disability-related questions or concerns.

Academic Misconduct

The University Student Conduct Code (available at conduct.uoregon.edu) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. By way of example, students should not give or receive (or attempt to give or receive) unauthorized help on assignments or examinations without express permission from the instructor. Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g. quotations, paraphrases, ideas) and use only the sources and resources authorized by the instructor. If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, it is the students' obligation to clarify the question with the instructor before committing or attempting to commit the act. Additional information about a common form of academic misconduct, plagiarism, is available at <https://researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism>.

Inclement Weather

It is generally expected that class will meet unless the University is officially closed for inclement weather. If it becomes necessary to cancel class while the University remains open, this will be announced on Canvas and by email. Updates on inclement weather and closure are also communicated in other ways described here: <https://hr.uoregon.edu/about-hr/campus-notifications/inclement-weather/inclement-weather-immediate-updates>

Reporting Obligations

I am an assisting employee. For information about my reporting obligations as an employee, please see [Employee Reporting Obligations](#) on the Office of Investigations and Civil Rights Compliance (OICRC) website. Students experiencing sex or gender-based discrimination, harassment or violence should call the 24-7 hotline 541-346-SAFE [7244] or visit safe.uoregon.edu for help. Students experiencing all forms of prohibited discrimination or harassment may contact the Dean of Students Office at 541-346-3216 or the non-confidential Title IX Coordinator/OICRC at 541-346-3123. Additional resources are available at investigations.uoregon.edu/how-get-support. I am also a mandatory reporter of child abuse. Please find more information at [Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect](#).

Mental Health and Wellness

Life at college can be very complicated. Students often feel overwhelmed or stressed, experience anxiety or depression, struggle with relationships, or just need help navigating challenges in their life. If you're facing such challenges, you don't need to handle them on your own--there's help and support on campus.

As your instructor if I believe you may need additional support, I will express my concerns, the reasons for them, and refer you to resources that might be helpful. It is not my intention to know the details of what might be bothering you, but simply to let you know I care and that help is available. Getting help is a courageous thing to do—for yourself and those you care about.

University Health Services help students cope with difficult emotions and life stressors. If you need general resources on coping with stress or want to talk with another student who has been in the same place as you, visit the Duck Nest (located in the EMU on the ground floor) and get help from one of the specially trained Peer Wellness Advocates. Find out more at health.uoregon.edu/ducknest. University Counseling Services (UCS) has a team of dedicated staff members to support you with your concerns, many of whom can provide identity-based support. All clinical services are free and confidential. Find out more at counseling.uoregon.edu or by calling 541-346-3227 (anytime UCS is closed, the After-Hours Support and Crisis Line is available by calling this same number).

Basic Needs

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students Office (346-3216, 164 Oregon Hall) for support.

This UO webpage includes resources for food, housing, healthcare, childcare, transportation, technology, finances, and legal support: <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/basicneeds/food/>

Accommodation for Religious Observances

The university makes reasonable accommodations, upon request, for students who are unable to attend a class for religious obligations or observance reasons, in accordance with the university discrimination policy which says “Any student who, because of religious beliefs, is unable to attend classes on a particular day shall be excused from attendance requirements and from any examination or other assignment on that day. The student shall make up the examination or other assignment missed because of the absence.” To request accommodations for this course for religious observance, visit the Office of the Registrar's website (<https://registrar.uoregon.edu/calendars/religious-observances>) and complete and submit to the instructor the “Student Religious Accommodation Request” form prior to the end of the second week of the term.