

Economics 4311 – Labor Economics (WI), Fall 2009

2:00-3:15 pm, Tuesday/Thursday

Professor Cory Koedel

Office: Department of Economics

Email: koedelc@missouri.edu

Office Hours: Thursday, 12:45 – 2, Professional Building #327

Web Page: Go to <http://web.missouri.edu/~koedelc>

Textbook: *Labor Economics*, third, fourth or fifth edition, George J. Borjas
(the third edition will be much cheaper if you can find a copy)

OBJECTIVES

This course has two primary objectives. First, it will provide a comprehensive treatment of the key issues in labor economics. These issues will be evaluated both theoretically and empirically. Second, as part of the writing intensive program, this course will also focus on clear and effective written communication.

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SPECIAL NEEDS:

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans With Disabilities Act, please notify the instructor immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your needs. Course material is available in alternative formats if requested. For questions regarding Americans With Disabilities Act accommodations, contact the MU Access Office, A048 Brady Commons.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

1. Homework

Six to eight ungraded homeworks will be assigned throughout the semester. Although these assignments will not be turned in, they should serve as your primary study guide for the midterm and final exams. Some answers to the homeworks may be posted with a lag.

2. Short Writing Assignments

There will be two short writing assignments. Each assignment will be 2 pages in length.

Paper 1: **10% of final grade**

Paper 2: **5% of final grade for first draft**
 10% of final grade for second draft

3. In-Class Writing Assignments

Three short, in-class essays will be assigned during the second half of the course (after the midterm). They will be assigned on random days, and your lowest score will be dropped. **Each of your two highest scores will account for 3% of your final grade.**

Total: 6% of final grade

4. Term Paper

The major writing project for this course will be a term paper. A list of possible topics will be provided. There will be three graded portions of the term paper:

- A) Paper Proposal (2 pages, **5% of final grade**)
- B) Rough Draft (8 pages, **15% of final grade**)
- C) Final Draft (8 pages, **15% of final grade**)

Total: 35% of final grade

5. Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will account for 20% of the final grade.

6. Final Exam

The final exam will *not* be comprehensive and will account for 14% of the final grade.

Late Work

The penalties for turning in assignments past the due date will be severe and non-negotiable (barring an excused absence). All assignments are due at the end of class on the due date. If class ends early, assignments are due at the *scheduled* end of class for that day (3:15 in this case). Here is the grade-deduction scale for late work:

Paper is late by:

1 minute to 12 hours:	one grade deduction
12.01 hours to 36.01 hours:	two grade deduction
36.01 hours or more:	<i>Score is set to zero</i>

Note that it will be impossible to turn in an assignment at, say, the 10th hour after it is due (this will be 1:15 AM and I will not be in the office). Essentially, if you are late but can get the paper to me before the end of the day in which it is due, you will lose one grade. Otherwise, if you turn the paper in the next morning or later, you will have at least a two-grade deduction.

Midterm and Final Make-Ups

Midterm and final make-ups will only be available for excused absences. Make-ups will not be granted if it is at all possible for students to take the exams at the scheduled times. If a make-up is required, please see me as soon as possible.

Academic Dishonesty

Please see the University of Missouri guidelines on academic dishonesty. Cases of academic dishonesty will be taken very seriously.

OUTLINE FOR COURSE:

The course outline below is subject to change. Some lectures will include material that is not covered in the text so attendance is important.

Week 1 (Week of August 24th)

L1: Introduction/Labor Supply (Chapter 2)

L2: Labor Supply (Chapter 2)

Week 2 (Week of August 31st)

L1: Labor Supply (Chapter 2)

L2: Labor Supply (Chapter 3)

(Note: Chapters 2 and 3 are combined in the 5th edition, revise accordingly below)

Week 3 (Week of September 7th)

L1: Labor Supply (Chapter 3)

L2: Labor Demand (Chapter 4)

Paper 1, Due Tuesday

Week 4 (Week of September 14th)

L1: Labor Demand (Chapter 4)

L2: Labor-Market Equilibrium (Chapter 5)

Term Paper Proposal, Due Thursday

Week 5 (Week of September 21st)

L1: Labor-Market Equilibrium (Chapter 5)

L2: Problem Set Review

Week 6 (Week of September 28th)

L1: MIDTERM EXAM

L2: Compensating Wage Differentials (Chapter 6)

Week 7 (Week of October 5th)

L1: Compensating Wage Differentials (Chapter 6)

L2: Human Capital (Chapter 7)

Week 8 (Week of October 12th)

L1: Human Capital (Chapter 7)

L2: Human Capital (Chapter 7)

Paper 2, Draft 1, Due Tuesday

Week 9 (Week of October 19th)

L1: The Wage Structure (Chapter 8)

L2: Labor Mobility (Chapter 9)

Week 10 (Week of October 26th)

L1: Labor Mobility (Chapter 9)

L2: Labor Market Discrimination (Chapter 10)

Paper 2, Draft 2, Due Tuesday

Week 11 (Week of November 2nd)

L1: Labor Market Discrimination (Chapter 10)

L2: Problem Set Review

Week 12 (Week of November 9th)

L1: Labor Unions (Chapter 11)

L2: Labor Unions (Chapter 11)

Term Paper, Draft 1, Due Tuesday

Week 13 (Week of November 16th)

L1: Incentive Pay (Chapter 12)

L2: Incentive Pay (Chapter 12)

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 14 (Week of November 30th)

L1: Unemployment (Chapter 13)

L2: Unemployment (Chapter 13)

Week 15 (Week of December 7th)

L1: Problem Set Review

L2: Final Exam

Term Paper, Draft 2, Due Tuesday