

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

ECONOM 4311/7311 : LABOR ECONOMICS

Fall 2020

TTH 02:00PM - 03:15PM

MIDDLEBUSH HALL 132

Instructor: Alina Malkova

Email: amalkova@missouri.edu

Office Hours: by appointment in Zoom: Tue & Thu 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm;

Course Website: <https://courses.missouri.edu/>

The course web site will contain the official course gradebook, announcements, and other supplementary materials.

Required Textbook: George Borjas, Labor Economics, 7th Edition.

Optional Textbook (no math): Ronald G Ehrenberg, Robert S. Smith, Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy, 12th Edition.

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the field of labor economics. The goal of the course is to gain insight into labor market behavior by applying concepts from microeconomic theory. Throughout the course, we will study the economic theory to explain workers and firms behavior, and equilibrium characteristics. The course also discusses different government policies in labor markets, discrimination problems, wealth inequality and the effect of immigration on labor market. Though the focus of the course is on the U.S. labor market and applicable policies, but the course discusses some labor market issues in developing nations for certain topics.

Grading and Course Components

- Homework: 25% (5% each)
- Essay: 15% (7.5% each)
- Exam 1: 15%
- Exam 2: 15%
- Final Exam: 30%

The grading scale (preliminary) is as follows:

A : 93 – 100	C+ : 77 – 79.99
A- : 90 – 92.99	C : 73 – 76.99
B+ : 87 – 89.99	C- : 70 – 72.99
B : 83 – 86.99	D+ : 65 – 69.99
B- : 80 – 82.99	D : 60 – 64.99
	F : < 60

Homework: There will be five problem sets assigned during the course of the semester. You are free to work in pairs on the homework. You should write clearly, as assignments that are hard to read will not be graded and your grade will be 0. Homework is due at midnight (11:59 PM) on the assigned date. You must submit an electronic copy of the PS on Canvas. Due dates are firm and no late homework will be accepted without prior approval.

Essay: There will be two essays assigned during the course of the semester. Essays are due at midnight (11:59 PM) on the assigned date. You must submit an electronic copy of the essay on Canvas as instructed during class. You will choose a topic from the available list (see attachment) and write an essay. Your writing should be clear, concise, and well-organized, and your arguments should be based on the economic concepts and theories we discuss in this course and supported by empirical facts.

Essay’s Format:

- 4-5 pages
- Double spaced
- 12 point font
- 1 inch margins
- Name in the header.
- References on separate page at the end (does not count towards length requirement), citing at least 3 sources, 2 or more of which should be from peer-reviewed economics journals in Chicago Author-Date style.

Midterms: There will be two in-class exams during the course in addition to the final exam. Each exam will cover material presented in class, readings scheduled outside of class, and homework assignments. The exam format will be provided a few days prior to a given exam. You should bring a **non-graphing** calculator with you to each exam.

Exam Dates:

Midterm 1	October 6
Midterm 2	November 10
Final Exam	December 15 at 10 AM

Final Exam: The final exam is scheduled for 10AM on Tuesday, 12/15/2020. All students must take the final exam at this time unless they have received official permission from the University in writing, in which case you must notify me of an official excuse by the last day of lecture, 12/10/2020. The final exam is cumulative, and material from the three midterms will be given approximately equal weight.

Course Policies

Attendance & Participation: Most classes will incorporate small group work via Slack ([link](#)). These activities will require students to work together to solve problems or answer questions. Participation in-class activities is highly encouraged. Regular attendance and participation is strongly recommended. You are responsible for any notes or class announcements that you may have missed. You should attempt to get these notes/announcements from one of your peers before seeing me. It is expected that you will respect your peers and the instructor with appropriate behavior while in class and that you will arrive to class on time. You should refrain from browsing the web, texting, etc. during class time.

Missed Exams: There are no make-up midterm examinations. If you must miss a midterm exam, you may be permitted to transfer the missed credit to the final examination. To qualify for a transfer of credit, you must contact me before the start of the missed midterm examination and provide me with an acceptable explanation. If the reason for your absence could not be foreseen, please make the request as soon as possible thereafter. All requests should be in writing and you may be asked to provide support with suitable documentation.

If you must miss the final exam for any excused reason, it is your responsibility to alert your instructor and Dean as soon as possible to schedule a make-up exam.

Decreasing the Risk of COVID-19 in Classrooms and Labs: MU cares about the health and safety of its students, faculty, and staff. To provide safe, high-quality education amid COVID-19, we will follow several specific campus policies in accordance with the advice of the Center for Disease Control and Boone County health authorities. This statement will be updated as information changes.

- If you are experiencing any COVID-related symptoms, or are otherwise feeling unwell, do not attend in-person classes and contact your health care provider and/or student

health immediately. COVID symptoms include: fever greater than 100.4 or chills; cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; fatigue; unexplained muscle or body aches; headache; new loss of taste or smell; sore throat; congestion or runny nose; nausea or vomiting; diarrhea.

- If you cannot attend the class due to health problems, please send me an email and attend online lectures in Zoom. The link: <https://umsystem.zoom.us/j/94908492747>. Zoom meetings are scheduled for 13:45pm –3:30 pm, so you can connect earlier or stay longer to chat with the instructor and classmates.
- We will all wear face coverings while in the classroom, unless you have a documented exemption due to a disability or medical condition.
- We will maintain a 6-foot distance from each other at all times(except in specific lab/studio courses with other specific guidelines for social distancing).
- We will enter the classroom and fill the room starting at the front, filing all the way across a row. When class ends, we will exit the row nearest to the door first; the instructor or TA will give the signal for the next row to exit, in the same manner.
- In any small section or lab class that requires them,additional measures will be listed in the syllabus and be mandatory for class participation.
- Online office hours will be available for all students.

This course will be recorded for the sole purpose of sharing the recording with students who can't attend class. The instructor will take care not to disclose personally identifiable information from the student education records during the recorded lesson.

Compliance with these guidelines is required for all; anyone who fails to comply will be subject to the accountability process, as stated in the University's Collected Rules and Regulations, Chapter 200 Student Code of Conduct.

If an instructor has concerns about how a student is following COVID-19 policies and protocols, please report those concerns to the Office of the Dean of Students. You can fill out a COVID Safety Measures Reporting Form here: https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofMissouriSystem&layout_id=38.

By taking the above measures, we are supporting your health and that of the whole Miz-zou community. Thank you in advance for joining me and your peers in adhering to these safety measures.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

Accommodation of Disabilities:

Students with Disabilities:

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please establish an accommodation plan with the MU Disability Center, S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

Intellectual Pluralism

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director; the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities; the MU Equity Office, orequity@missouri.edu.

All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

Academic Inquiry, Course Discussion, and Privacy

University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may make audio or video recordings of course activity unless specifically prohibited by the faculty member. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri

pertaining to student conduct matters.

Title IX

University of Missouri policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy, age, disability and protected veteran status. Discrimination includes any form of unequal treatment such as denial of opportunities, harassment, and violence. Sex-based violence includes rape, sexual assault, unwanted touching, stalking, dating/interpersonal violence, and sexual exploitation.

If you experience discrimination, you are encouraged (but not required) to report the incident to the MU Office for Civil Rights & Title IX. Learn more about your rights and options at civilrights.missouri.edu or call 573-882-3880. You also may make an anonymous report online.

Students may also contact the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention (RSVP) Center, a confidential resource, for advocacy and other support related to rape or power-based personal violence at rsvp@missouri.edu or 573-882-6638, or go to rsvp.missouri.edu.

Both the Office for Civil Rights & Title IX and the RSVP Center can provide assistance to students who need help with academics, housing, or other issues.

Mental Health

The University of Missouri is committed to supporting student well-being through an integrated network of care, with a wide range of services to help students succeed. The MU Counseling Center offers professional mental health care, and can help you find the best approach to treatment based on your needs. Call to make an appointment at 573-882-6601. Any student in crisis may call or go to the MU Counseling Center between 8:00 – 5:00 M-F. After hours phone support is available at 573-882-6601.

Visit our website at <https://wellbeing.missouri.edu> to take an online mental health screening, find out about workshops and resources that can help you thrive, or learn how to support a friend. Download Sanvello, a phone app that teaches skills and strategies to help you maintain good mental health. Log in with your Mizzou e-mail to unlock all the tools available through Sanvello at no cost to you.

Course Outline*

Date	Topic	Readings	Notes
08/25	Introduction to Labor Economics	Syllabus; 1.1-1.3 2.1-2.2, 12.1-12.2	
08/27	Neoclassical Model of Labor Supply: Preferences and Constraints	2.3-2.4	
09/01	Labor Supply: The Hours Decision	2.5, 2.6-2.8	
09/03	Labor Supply: The Hours Decision	2.5, 2.6-2.8 , 2.10-2.11	
09/08	In-class activities		Homework 1 Due
09/10	Labor Demand in the Short Run	3.1-3.2	
09/15	Labor Demand in the Long Run	3.3-3.4	
09/17	Application: Minimum Wage Empirical Studies	3.10, Readings	
09/22	Labor Market Equilibrium: Competitive Markets	4.1-4.2, 4.5	
09/24	Noncompetitive Labor Markets	4.8	
09/29	Application: Labor Markets and Development	Readings	Homework 2 Due
10/01	Catch up day		
10/06	Midterm 1		
10/08	Human Capital: The Schooling Model	6.1 , 6.2-6.3	
10/13	Human Capital: Returns to Schooling I	6.4-6.5	Essay 1 Due
10/15	Human Capital: Signaling Model	6.4-6.5, 6.9	
10/20	Application: Human Capital and Development	Readings	Homework 3 Due
10/22	Income Inequality: Introduction	7.1-7.3, 7.4	
10/27	Wage Dispersion and Inter-generational Inequality	7.5-7.6	
10/29	Labor Market Discrimination	9.1-9.3	
11/03	Taste-Based Discrimination	9.4-9.5	Homework 4 Due
11/05	Catch Up day		
11/10	Midterm 2		
11/12	Statistical Discrimination	9.6	
11/17	Measuring Discrimination	9.8, 9.7, 9.9, 9.11, Readings	
11/19	Compensating Differentials	5.1-5.2, 5.5	Essay 2 Due
12/01	Labor mobility	8.1 -8.2	
12/03	Family Migration	8.3	
12/08	Immigration in the U.S.	8.4-8.5 , 8.7	
12/10	Catch Up day		Homework 5 Due
12/15	Final Exam, 10 AM-12AM		

*Note: This outline is tentative and subject to change.