

Economics 4345 WI/7345 Spring, 2023

9-9:50am MWF, Switzer Hall 301

Professor Michael Podgursky

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Office Hours: Monday, 11 am – 12 pm & by appt.

Textbook: *Economics of Education*, first edition, Lovenheim and Turner

You will also need to purchase (and read)

Enrico Moretti. *The New Geography of Jobs*. 2012

Prerequisites: Econ 1014. Econ 2371 or Stat 2500

OBJECTIVES

Education plays an important role in economic growth and development. Human capital is the most important investment in any modern economy. For this reason the development of human capital plays an important role in current policy debates about economic performance. How can we improve the delivery of K-12 education? How can we close achievement gaps between white and minority students? How should K-12 and higher education be financed?

The goal of this course is to use economic theory and research methods to analyze education policy and the market for education services.

To the extent possible this class will be run in a seminar format. I will assume that you have completed the assigned readings prior to class and are prepared to participate in class discussions.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

Survey Paper: 40% of grade.

There will be one writing assignment. You are asked to choose 3-5 articles on a topic that you find of interest in the field. You must get prior approval from me for the articles you will review. Then you will write a review article describing the questions examined in the articles, the data and empirical approaches used in answering the questions, and summarizing the findings. You may conclude the essay by describing the overall findings from the articles, whether you find the results convincing, and some thoughts about future studies that might be done in the area. You may also discuss the policy implications of the findings from the articles.

The paper will be 8-10 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 font). A first draft will be due April 10. I will provide comments on them and return them to you within in a few days.

There will be two in-class exams:

Mid-Term Exam: 20% of final grade

Exam 2: 30% of final grade

Class participation: 10% of final grade

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION:

The University of Missouri System is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action institution and is nondiscriminatory relative to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability or status as a Vietnam-era veteran. Any person having inquiries concerning the University of Missouri-Columbia's compliance with implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, or other civil rights laws should contact the Assistant Vice Chancellor, Human Resource Services, University of Missouri-Columbia, 130 Heinkel Building, Columbia, Mo. 65211, (573) 882-4256, or the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education.

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.

In-Class Exam Make-Ups

Exam and in-class writing 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 exam or writing assignment at the scheduled time. If a make-up is required, please contact 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:

Schedule and Topics for In-Class Sessions			Topic	Readings (LT = Lovenheim and Turner)
Week 1	17-Jan	W	Introduction	Introduction
	19-Jan	F	Moretti	
Week 2	22-Jan	M		
	24-Jan	W		
	26-Jan	F		
Week 3	29-Jan	M	Education Markets in the US	Ch1,2 LT
	31-Jan	W		
	3-Feb	F		
Week 4	5-Feb	M	Empirical Tools of Education Economics	Ch 3 LT
	7-Feb	W		
	9-Feb	F	Human Capital Theory	Ch 4
Week 5	12-Feb	M		
	15-Feb	W		
	17-Feb	F		
Week 6	19-Feb	M	Signaling Model	Ch 5
	21-Feb	W		
	23-Feb	F		
Week 7	26-Feb	M	Returns to Education Investment	Ch 6
	28-Feb	W		
	2-Mar	F		
Week 8	4-Mar	M	Education Production Function	Ch 7
	6-Mar	W		
	8-Mar	F		
Week 9	11-Mar	M	EXAM 1 (In Class)	
	13-Mar	W	Financing Local Public Schools	Ch 8
	15-Mar	F		
Week 10	18-Mar	M	Does Money Matter?	Ch 9
	20-Mar	W		
	21-Mar	F	Survey Paper Proposal Due	
Week 11	25-Mar	M	Spring Break	
Week 12	1-Apr	M	School Choice	Ch 10
	3-Apr	W	Test Based Accountability Systems	Ch 11
	5-Apr	F		
Week 13	8-Apr	M	Teacher Labor Markets	Ch 12, Podgursky

	10-Apr	W	SURVEY PAPER DRAFT DUE	
	12-Apr	F		
Week 14	15-Apr	M	Higher Education Markets	Ch 13, Hoxby
	17-Apr	W		
	19-Apr	F		
Week 15	22-Apr	M	Higher Education Financial Aid	Ch 14
	24-Apr	W		
	26-Apr	F		
Week 16	29-Apr	M	Economics of College Life	Ch 15
	1-May	W	FINAL DRAFT OF PAPER DUE	
	9-May	Th 10a- 12pm	FINAL EXAM	

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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 or the [Office of Academic Integrity](#).

Students are expected to adhere to this honor pledge on all graded work whether or not they are explicitly asked in advance to do so: "I strive to uphold the University values of respect, responsibility, discovery, and excellence. On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this work."

ACADEMIC INQUIRY, COURSE DISCUSSION, AND PRIVACY

When students record something that happens in a course (a lecture, class discussions, meetings, etc.) it has an impact on the rights of the people captured in that recording. For example, the instructor and the University may have rights to the intellectual property contained in that recording. At the same time, another student who may have been recorded has the right to privacy. In order to protect these rights, MU employs a policy (called "[Executive Order No. 38](#)") to govern both situations you may encounter while taking a course – when an instructor allows recordings and when they do not.

In this class, students may not make audio or video recordings of course activity, except students permitted to record as an accommodation under [section 240.040](#) of the Collected Rules.

Students who violate 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.

FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of educational records; to establish the rights of students to inspect and review their education records; and to provide guidelines for the correction of inaccurate and misleading data through informal and formal hearings. The law applies to any individual who is or has been in attendance at an institution and regarding whom the institution maintains educational records. Once students have matriculated to the University of Missouri, i.e. enrolled in course work, FERPA rights transfer to the student, regardless of the student's age.

Students can enable certain individuals to have access to their education records by signing a FERPA waiver. The consent must specify records to be disclosed, state the purpose of the disclosure and identify the party or class of parties to whom the disclosure must be made.

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 [Office of Academic Integrity](#), or the [MU Equity Office](#).

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.

NETIQUETTE

Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Our differences, some of which are outlined in the University's nondiscrimination statement, will add richness to this learning experience. Please consider that sarcasm and humor can be misconstrued in online interactions and generate unintended disruptions. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course ambiance.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS & ACCOMMODATIONS

Many religious faiths are represented in the student body. The University of Missouri does not restrict student free exercise of religion, unless 1) the restriction is in the form of a rule of general applicability, and does not discriminate against religion or among religions; and 2) it can be demonstrated that the application of the restriction is essential to furthering a compelling university interest, and is not unduly restrictive considering the relevant circumstance. The policy of the University attempts to strike a reasonable balance between accommodating the religious practice of students and meeting academic needs and standards.

Consult IDE's Guide to Religions for the form that can be used to notify an instructor of an absence associated with religious practice. Students are expected to notify their instructor(s) by completing and submitting this form in a manner that is consistent with the procedure outlined in the university's policy on student religious accommodation. Providing false information

regarding sincerely held religious practice is a violation of the university's Standard of Conduct and will not be tolerated.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY (PROHIBITED DISCRIMINATION)

The University of Missouri does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex* (including gender), pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, protected veteran status, and any other status protected by applicable state or federal law. Discrimination includes any form of unequal treatment such as denial of opportunities, harassment, and violence. *Sex discrimination includes rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, unwanted touching, stalking, dating/domestic violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation. Retaliation for making or supporting a report of discrimination or harassment is also prohibited.

If you experience discrimination or sexual violence, 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.

If you are a survivor, or someone concerned about a survivor, and need immediate information on what to do, see [RSVP Resources page](#). 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.

In the event that you choose to write or speak about having experienced any of these forms of prohibited discrimination or harassment, Mizzou policies require that, as your instructor, I share this information with the MU Office for Civil Rights & Title IX. They will contact you to offer information about resources, as well as your rights and options as a member of our campus community.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The goal of the University of Missouri is to ensure an inclusive learning environment for all students. [The University of Missouri Disability Center](#) provides services and accommodations for students to participate fully in the learning experience and to experience equitable evaluation of their performance. Students (including online students) with a documented disability can contact the Disability Center to establish an [Accommodation Plan](#). Documented disabilities include *hearing, vision, mobility, learning and attention, psychological health, and physical health*. Students' accommodations are implemented with the input of students to maximize the learning experiences. The MU Disability Center keeps information about a student's disability confidential.

Please notify me of your eligibility for accommodations as soon as possible. Additionally, if there are aspects of the course that present as barriers, such as inaccessible course content (e.g., learning assessments, PowerPoints, non-captioned videos, images, tables, PDFs) or if you need an immediate accommodation due to an injury, please contact me or the Disability Center as soon as possible.

DECREASING THE RISK OF COVID-19 IN CLASSROOMS AND LABS

If you have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been identified as someone who needs to quarantine, do not attend class in person until the mandated period for isolation or quarantine has passed. Your instructor will work with you on arrangements to access class material while you are in isolation or quarantine.

Additionally, 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.

Instructors or students with concerns about how a student is following any University-mandated COVID-19 policies and protocols should report those concerns to the Office of the Dean of Students. Concerns can be documented on a COVID Safety Measures Reporting Form.

Please consult Show Me Renewal for further guidelines. This statement will be updated as information changes.