

Economics 4616-001: Labor Economics

Fall 2009

T/Th8@,

nesday 12:45-2:15 PM, and

by appointment

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#### Course Description

In this class we will study the labor market, focusing on supply and demand factors that determine labor allocation and remuneration. We will also explore topics at the heart of modern labor economics including human capital and household production decisions as well as the effects of unions, tax policy, and immigration on the labor market.

Prerequisites: Economics 3070 (Intermediate Microeconomic Theory).

Textbook: George Borjas, Labor Economics, McGraw Hill, 2008. (4

<sup>th</sup> edition)

If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining notes on the material we covered from another classmate. I encourage you to come to my office hours to discuss the material you missed, but not before you have gone over the material yourself through notes and the textbook.

Homework will be graded on a check-plus, check, check-minus, zero grading system based largely on the effort demonstrated in solving the problems. Homework is due in class at the beginning of lecture on the dates specified. Following a 15-minute grace period, your homework grade will be lowered by one grade level for every day that the assignment is late (with a zero being the minimum obtainable score). This means that if the assignment is due at 9:30AM and you turn it in at 10:45AM and you got a check, your score will be recorded as a check-minus. You may collaborate with your classmates on homework, but each student must submit her own homework and provide the names of any students with which she collaborated on the first page of the assignment. It is important that you demonstrate that you are thinking independently as I will compare your answers to those of other students in the class.

Throughout this class, we will do in-class exercises that will help prepare you for homework and exams while also encouraging you to think on your feet, work in groups, and possibly present your work to the class. These exercises may not be formally graded, but I will count your level of involvement in these exercises along with your attendance and participation in class (e.g. answering questions posed to the class) at random intervals throughout the course. You will be given the opportunity to make up for up to two lost participation points by turning in brief response papers to the articles discussed in class at the end of the semester. Due to the short



