

**Course** ECON 3100-090 and ECON 3100-070

Labor Economics – 3 Credit hours

Summer 2017 Section 090: Online

Section 070: Sandy Campus (see Optional Review Session Schedule)

Fulfills University QI Requirement

**Instructor** Rick Haskell

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Course Materials There is no required text for this course as all required and supplemental content is delivered online through Canvas. Students interested in Labor Economics may be interested in Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy. I rely heavily on the 11th Edition, but any edition is acceptable and can be purchased through the campus bookstore or can be found very reasonably through various online book sellers.

Course Overview At its core, the discussion of Labor Economics is a discussion of microeconomic principles applied to labor markets and labor market policies in an effort to understand differences in outcomes experienced by various labor market participants. In other words, *labor economics* simply seeks to explain why different people receive different wages.

This course emphasizes the evaluation of economic models illustrative of modern labor markets and uses a combination of video content, Quizzes, Review Problems, Canvas Discussions, and exams. The assigned modules should be completed in the order in which are presented in Canvas and all Quizzes and Review Problems must be completed on or before the assigned due dates and before taking the exams covering their respective content.

The course includes one Mid-Term Exam and a Final Exam, each of which may be completed away from the University of Utah campus. Review modules are provided prior to each of the exams.

There are no specific prerequisites for this class. However, some knowledge of microeconomics (at the principles level) and basic algebra will be very helpful. We'll spend a significant amount of time analyzing graphs and doing algebraic calculations.

Canvas

This course heavily uses Canvas for communication, scheduling, assignments, discussions, and dissemination of critical course materials. If you haven't already set up Canvas to forward your Canvas email messages to your regular email you should do so immediately.

Quizzes

There is a short graded Quiz to be taken following each video segment, of which there are 4-6 per module. Quizzes must be completed and submitted by the due date and time for their respective modules to receive course credit.

### Review Problems

At the end of each module there is a graded Review Problem covering some of the more important aspects of the module. These problems include a combination of objective, short answer and calculation questions/problems which are very similar to those to be found on the exams. Practice problems complementary to the material covered in the various modules can be found by going to <a href="www.richardhaskell.net">www.richardhaskell.net</a> under the heading of *In-Class Problems*. There are also supplemental *Instructional Primers* and alternative *Video Content* available through this site.

## Canvas Discussions

Students will participate in five (5) separate Canvas Discussions throughout this course. These discussions represent interactions with other students on topics which are related to labor economics, but not specifically addressed in the course video modules. These range from a discussion of the minimum wage to the effects of robotics an AI on the labor market.

#### **Exams**

There is one mid-term exam (*June 23-24*) and a final exam (*August 3-4*), each of which is to be completed in an approved, proctored testing facility. These exams have been scheduled with the University of Utah's UOnline testing facility for students in the vicinity of the university's main campus, and it is through the UOnline Center that students out of the area will arrange to take these exams at approved testing facilities. Instructions for scheduling time in the University of Utah testing facility or some other proctored facility can be found through the Schedule Exams function in the left navigation page of the Canvas site for the course.

#### **Course Essay**

This course is focused on a central theme in the form of the question, "Why do different workers receive different wages?" Students are reminded of this question throughout the course and the final course assignment (*August 10*) comprises a response to the question. Beyond the initial course modules developing the mathematical and graphic foundations used throughout the course, each module offers a theoretical, graphic, and equational structure in support of at least one of the plausible responses to the central theme's question.

#### Course Schedule

An updated course schedule can be viewed through the Canvas site for this course.

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Quizzes	10%
Review Problems	25%
Canvas Discussions	10%
Course Essay	15%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%

#### **Grading Scale**

Α	> 93.9%	B-	80 - 83.9%	D+	67 - 69.9%
A-	90 - 93.9	C+	77 - 79.9%	D	64 - 66.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	С	74 - 76.9%	D-	60 - 63.9%
В	84 - 86.9%	C-	70 - 73.9%	E	<60%

Grades will be determined in accordance with the University of Utah's grading policies. Written feedback will be provided on some assignments and more detailed feedback will be provided at any time upon request. If you believe you have received an incorrect grade on any assignment for this class, please bring it to my attention immediately.

#### **Expectations**

#### You can expect me to:

- Treat students and others with respect, expect that as adults we are each responsible for our decisions and actions, and ask "why" often.
- Grade and provide feedback on assignments within one week of their submission.
- Return email messages, texts and phone calls within 24 hours.
- Use Canvas to enhance student learning, communication, and convenience.
- Follow the syllabus and hold each class session as scheduled. In the event of an
  unsolvable conflict or emergency, I will make every effort to arrange for a qualified
  substitute to teach the class.
- Be readily available to meet with students, either during regularly-scheduled office hours or at any other time that works for both of us.
- Complete final grades and provide students with feedback on final grades within two weeks of the date the last course assignment is submitted.

#### I expect you to:

- Actively communicate and use Canvas regularly.
- Complete all Modules, Quizzes, Review Problems, Reaction Papers, Research Project and Exams, and participate in exam reviews and ask "why" often.
- Read the course syllabus, ensure you have a clear understanding of the course requirements and evaluation methods, and fulfill the course requirements.
- Learn about and abide by the University of Utah's academic honesty policy. Specifically, I
  expect you to not engage in cheating, plagiarism and furnishing false or misleading
  information to any faculty or staff member.
- Immediately notify me in the event of an emergency that prevents you from submitting an assignment or completing the course.
- Ask questions if any expectations or assignments are unclear.
- Be courteous of others when using technology. Always give speakers your full attention and make sure that any use of technology during class enhances your learning and does not distract your or others from course content.

### Supplemental Materials

There are supplemental readings, video content, Instructional Primers, and In-Class Problems available through various links in Canvas and on www.richardhaskell.net.

#### **Late Policy**

Late assignments may not be accepted for credit without prior permission.

# ADA statement

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 801-581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. (www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/)

## Syllabus changes

This syllabus is subject to change. Potential changes will be discussed in class and may be posted in Canvas.