University of Alberta – Department of Economics – Fall 2018
ECON 431 – Labor Economics – Marchand

COURSE OUTLINE

Website

https://sites.ualberta.ca/~jmarchan/teaching.htm

Class Hours	Instructor	Office Hours
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday	Joseph Marchand	Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
Tory B 5: 10:00 - 10:50 am	jmarchan@ualberta.ca	Tory 7 29: 1:00 - 1:50 pm

Description

Labor Economics (ECON 431) at the University of Alberta serves as senior-level undergraduate exposure to the market for labor, in order to establish a comprehensive understanding of the field. This course will explore several topics of labor economics, including the supply of and demand for labor, labor market equilibrium, compensating differentials, human capital, labor mobility, discrimination, and distribution.

Prerequisites include ECON 281 and MATH 114 (or 113 or 117 or 144) or SCI 100, or consent of Department. All 400-Level courses are restricted to BA Economics Majors, BA Honors Economics Majors, BSc Math/Econ Majors, and BSc Honors Math/Econ Majors until June 28th. All other students may register after this date. The Department of Economics will include pre and co-requisite checking as part of the course restrictions.

Resources

There is one required textbook for this course, *Labor Economics, Seventh Edition* (2016), written by George J. Borjas and published by McGraw-Hill Education. Most of the first nine chapters will be covered, as well as some of the tenth and twelfth. The bookstore will carry the hard-cover, seventh edition. Other physical copy options include the soft-cover and loose leaf formats, as well as the previous fifth or sixth editions (avoid older). Digital copy options include the Kindle and SmartBook formats, with rentals available.

There are also other materials available, beyond the textbook, to help master the subject. The lectures, which provide further explanation and context for each of the course topics, are the second most important resource. Only the figures of the lectures will be circulated, so any text appearing on the slides or on the board are your own responsibility. Several research papers will provide additional context and exposure to the latest findings in the labor field (listed at http://ideas.repec.org/k/econ431.html, but there is a lag in updating).

Evaluation

Everyone enrolled in this course must submit two assignments and complete two exams. The purpose of these evaluative tools is for you to demonstrate your understanding of the field of labor economics throughout the semester. Each assignment and exam will contain a mix of questions involving calculations, definitions, explanations, and figures.

Your numerical grade for the course will be calculated using the following weights:

Assignment 1	10%	(due Friday, Sep. 28th, drop box by 4:00 pm)
Exam 1 – First 1/3rd	30%	(on Wednesday, Oct. 10th, Tory B 5 @ 10:00 am)
Assignment 2	10%	(due Friday, Nov. 30th, drop box by 4:00 pm)
Exam 2 – Final 2/3rds	50%	(on Monday, Dec. 17th, exam room @ 9:00 am)

Your letter grade is then determined based on your absolute and relative performance to the other enrolled students, with a historical class grade point average of ~3.1 out of 4.0.

Two assignments, one leading up to each exam, will be take-home and are due to the department drop box by 4:00 pm on the due date. They will be graded by a teaching assistant (TA) and returned to you within one week, with their keys posted on the course website. Ungraded assignment answers will not be evaluated by the instructor (or TA) prior to the due date. Tardiness, plagiarism, and unoriginality will be severely penalized.

Two exams will be given in class on their scheduled dates, with Exam 1 covering the first third of course material and Exam 2 covering the final two-thirds. Exam 1 will be graded by the instructor and TA and returned to you within one week. If Exam 1 is missed, its weight will be automatically reallocated to Exam 2. A previous Exam 1 will be provided, but keys will not be provided for either the previous or current exams. Exam 2 will be graded by the instructor and will be roughly twice the length and difficulty of Exam 1. No previous Exam 2 has ever been circulated. Exam 2 may be deferred through your faculty, but approval requires that half of the assigned work has already been completed. This means that if you miss Exam 1, you will not be eligible to defer your Exam 2. The deferred Exam 2, if approved by your home faculty, will take place in mid-February.

Policy

"Policy about course outlines can be found in the Evaluation Procedures and Grading System section of the University Calendar." (If there is a problem, let me know ASAP.)

"The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behavior (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behavior which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University." (Dean's office makes decisions.)

"Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars, or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s)." (Includes picture taking too. Any perceived recording device should remain stowed away during class or office hours.)

September	5th	Wed	(1)	Introduction to Labor Markets: Overview of the Course
	7th	Fri	*	No Class (in Saskatoon, SK)
	10th	Mon	(2)	Introduction to Labor Markets: 1.0, 1.1, 1.2
	12th	Wed	(3)	Introduction to Labor Markets: 1.3, 1.A
	14th	Fri	(4)	Introduction to Labor Markets: 2.1, 12.0, 12.1, 12.2, 12.3
	17th	Mon	(5)	Supply of Labor: 2.0, 2.3, 2.4
	19th	Wed	(6)	Supply of Labor: 2.5, 2.6
	21st	Fri	(7)	Supply of Labor: 2.7, 2.10, 2.11
	24th	Mon	(8)	Supply of Labor: 2.2, 2.8, (2.12, 2.9, 2.13)
	26th	Wed	(9)	Demand for Labor: 3.0, 3.1, 3.2 [AB min wage @ 4:00 pm]
	28th	Fri	(10)	Demand for Labor: 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 **[Assignment 1 due]**
October	1st	Mon	(11)	Demand for Labor: 3.7, 3.8, 3.11
	3rd	Wed	**[R1]**	**Review [First 1/3rd]**
	5th	Fri	*	No Class (in Tampa, FL)
	8th	Mon	*	No Class (Thanksgiving Day)
	10th	Wed	**[E1]**	**Exam 1 [First 1/3rd]** (Tory B 5 @ 10:00 am)
	12th	Fri	(12)	Labor Market Equilibrium: 3.9, 4.0, 4.1, 4.2
	15th	Mon	(13)	Labor Market Equilibrium: 4.7, 4.8, 3.10
	17th	Wed	(14)	Labor Market Equilibrium: 4.3, 4.4
	19th	Fri	(15)	Labor Market Equilibrium: 4.5, RP.1
	22nd	Mon	(16)	Labor Market Equilibrium: 3.12, RP.2
	24th	Wed	(17)	Labor Market Equilibrium: 4.6, RP.3
	26th	Fri	(18)	Compensating Differentials: 5.0, 5.1, 5.2
	29th	Mon	(19)	Compensating Differentials: 5.3, 5.4
	31st	Wed	(20)	Compensating Differentials: 5.5, 5.6
November	2nd	Fri	(21)	Human Capital: 6.0, 6.1, 6.2
	5th	Mon	(22)	Human Capital: 6.3, 6.4, 6.8
	7th	Wed	(23)	Human Capital: 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.9
	9th	Fri	*	No Class (in Washington, DC)
	12th	Mon	*	No Class (Remembrance Day)
	14th	Wed	*	No Class (Reading Week)
	16th	Fri	*	No Class (Reading Week)
	19th	Mon	(24)	Human Capital: 6.10, 2.12, 6.11, RP.4
	21st	Wed	(25)	Labor Mobility: 8.0, 8.1, 8.3, 8.2
	23rd	Fri	(26)	Labor Mobility: 8.4, 8.5, 8.6
	26th	Mon	(27)	Labor Mobility: 8.10, 8.11, 8.12, 8.13
	28th	Wed	(28)	Discrimination & Distribution: 9, 7
	30th	Fri	(29)	Discrimination & Distribution: 9, 7 **[Assignment 2 due]**
Dec.	3rd	Mon	(30)	Discrimination & Distribution: 9, 7
	5th	Wed	(31)	Discrimination & Distribution: RP.5, RP.6
	7th	Fri	**[R2]**	**Review [Final 2/3rds]**
	17th	Mon	**[E2]**	**Exam 2 [Final 2/3rds]** (exam room @ 9:00 am)