

Economics 150A - Labor Economics
Course Outline and Reading List
Spring 2008

My Information:	Kelly Bedard North Hall 2022 kelly@econ.ucsb.edu	
Classes:	Tuesday and Thursday (Buchanan 1930)	11:00-12:15am
Office Hours:	Tuesday Thursday	2:30-3:30pm 2:30-3:30pm
Final Exam:	Wednesday, June 11	12:00-3:00pm

Economics 150 is an introductory survey of modern labor economics. We will develop simple theoretical models of labor demand, labor supply and their interaction.

Textbook

George Borjas. *Labor Economics*, Fourth Edition, 2008. Irwin McGraw-Hill.

Grading

The final course grade will be computed as follows:

Assignments	(4 Assignments worth 5% each)	20%
Midterm Exam	(Thursday, May 1)	30%
Final Exam	(Wednesday, June 11, 12-3pm)	50%

No makeup exams will be given in this course. If you miss the mid-term exam your final exam will count for 80% of your course grade instead of 50%. However, illness and serious family problems are the only reasons that you will be excused from the mid-term exam. In either case I will require the appropriate documentation. If you miss the mid-term exam for any other reason you will receive a grade of zero for the exam.

Your percentage grade at the end of the term will be converted into a letter grade approximately as follows: the top 25% of the class will receive an A+, A or A-, the next 35% a B+, B or B-, the next 30% a C+, C or C-, and the bottom 10% a D+, D, D- or F.

A cautionary note, academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, and so on) will be taken very seriously. All cases will be reported to the appropriate office immediately.

Assignments

The assignments are designed to familiarize you with the course material, as well as give you an opportunity to delve more deeply into selected issues.

The assignments **MUST BE TYPED** and are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Please note the following rule for late assignment submission: there will be a deduction of 25 marks (out of 100) for every 24 hours that the assignment is late. The first 25 marks will be deducted 10 minutes after the start of class on the due date.

In addition to the assignments that are to be handed in for grading, I strongly recommend that you work through the exercises at the end of each chapter in preparation for exams.

I also encourage you to read the chapter(s) and papers for each lecture before coming to class. Many lectures, especially those focussing on journal articles or assignments, will have a substantial discussion and/or problem-solving component.

Assignments	Due Date
Assignment 1	Thursday, April 10
Assignment 2	Tuesday, April 22
Assignment 3	Thursday, May 15
Assignment 4	Thursday, May 29

All dates and topics listed in this syllabus are tentative in the sense that I reserve the right to change them. While it is possible that the topics covered may change slightly as we progress through the course, it is unlikely that the assignment due dates will change, and exam dates will not change.

Class Schedule and Assigned Readings

(1) Labor Supply (weeks 1-5)

- Chapter 2
- Eissa, Nada and Jeffrey Liebman. "Labor Supply Response to the Earned Income Tax Credit," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 111 (1996): 605-637.
- Moffitt, Robert. "The Negative Income Tax and the Evolution of U.S. Welfare Policy," *Journal of Economic Perspective*, (Summer 2003): 119-140.
- Chapter 3

(2) Labor Demand

(weeks 7-8)

- Chapter 4

(3) Labor Market Equilibrium

(weeks 9-10)

- Chapter 5
- Card, David. "The Impact of the Marial Boatlift on the Miami Labor Market," *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, 43 (1990): 245-257.
- Card, David and Alan Krueger. "The Effects of Minimum Wages on Teenage Employment and Enrollment: Evidence from Matched CPS Surveys," *American Economic Review*, 84 (September 1994): 772-793.