

Economics 151

Labor Economics

The major focus of this course concerns the institutions surrounding the world of work, including but not limited to the price and quantity of labor as determined in a standard supply and demand labor market model. I will give considerable attention to institutional forces and the role of public policy. Quizzes and exams will be in essay format, with an emphasis upon the skilled presentation of ideas and evidence rather than solving quantitative problem sets.

The list of topics below is subject to change, with further readings to be added later in the term. Grades will be determined by: three short takehome quizzes (30 percent), a midterm exam (25 percent) and a final exam (45 percent). Extra credit will be available for participation in small-group presentations to be scheduled toward the end of the term. Attendance at all scheduled exams is required to pass the course.

Text: Bruce Kaufman and Julie Hotchkiss. *The Economics of Labor Markets*, fifth edition, Dryden, 1999 (referred to below as KH). Available at ASUC.

Schedule

Week	Topic	Readings	
1	Jan. 18, 20	Introduction and overview	KH, ch. 1.
2	Jan. 25, 27	Labor supply	KH, ch. 2.
3	Feb. 1, 3	Labor force trends	KH, ch. 3.
4	Feb. 8, 10	Labor demand; first quiz due	KH, ch. 4, 5.
5	Feb. 15, 17	Unemployment	KH, ch. 12.
6	Feb. 22, 24	Wage determination	KH, ch. 6.
7	Feb. 29, Mar. 2	Review/ midterm exam	---
8	Mar. 7, 9	Education and training	KH, ch. 7.
9	Mar. 14, 16	Wage structure	KH, ch. 8.
10	Mar. 21, 23 Mar. 28, 30	Discrimination; second quiz due Spring break	KH, ch. 9. ---
11	Apr. 4, 6	Unions and collective bargaining	KH, ch. 10.
12	Apr. 11, 13	Union economic impacts	KH, ch. 11.
13	Apr. 18, 20	Policies to raise low pay; third quiz due	tba
14	Apr. 25, 27	Student presentations	tba
15	May 2, 4	Presentations and review	----
	May 17, 8–11am	Final exam	