ECON 460-01 Labor Economics

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Purpose of Course

This course is designed to extend students' knowledge of economic theory as it applies to the labor market. We will first examine the determination of labor demand, labor supply and the equilibrium employment and earnings outcomes. Considerable emphasis will be placed in the economic theories and techniques labor economists adopt. Students will then have an opportunity to apply the knowledge as we analyze specific topics in labor economics, in particular, education, discrimination, immigration and labor unions.

Text


ISBN-10: 0132540649

Required supplemental readings will be assigned through the course to reflect on current economic issues and policies. You will be responsible for all material covered in lecture as well as any handouts that are distributed.

Grading

Homework 15%
Research project 20%
Mid-term exam 1 20%
Mid-term exam 2 20%
Final exam (comprehensive) 25%

Homework will be posted online. You will have one week to complete it before the due date. You are encouraged to work in groups, but each student must turn in his/her own homework assignment.

This course is a capstone course, so each of you will conduct original research on a labor topic of your interest and write a paper. It is a great opportunity for you to ask an interesting and meaningful economics question and apply the relevant economic theories and skills to answer the question. You will also learn how to structure and write a research paper. I will provide more guidance as the term progresses.

The research paper is due on Friday, December 7th
To guarantee a particular grade you will need the following percentage score:
A: 92+
B: 83-91.9
C: 74-82.9
D: 65-73.9
F: 65-

Missed Assignments

Late homework will be accepted with a 15% penalty per day. No homework will be accepted after the answers have been posted.

Makeup exams will **only** be given to students with a **valid** excuse for missing class, such as university activities and serious sickness. In these circumstances, you may arrange a makeup exam with me. The questions may be different, but the level of difficulty will be similar.

Academic Honesty

If I catch you cheating on an exam or plagiarizing a paper, you will receive an “F” for the assignment and possibly for the course. All occurrences will be passed on to the Dean of the College. There is absolutely no place for such behavior here at Xavier. If you are uncertain about what constitutes as plagiarism when writing papers, please come and talk to me.

Williams College of Business Mission Statement

The College educates students of business, enabling them to improve organizations and society, consistent with the Jesuit tradition.

Course Outline

- Overview of the labor market (Chapter 1, 2)
- The demand for labor (Chapter 3, 4, 5)
- The supply of labor (Chapter 6, 7)
- **Mid-term exam 1**

- Wage differentials (Chapter 8)
- Human capital (Chapter 9)
- Immigration (Chapter 10)
- **Mid-term exam 2**

- Discrimination (Chapter 12)
- Labor unions (Chapter 13)
- Unemployment (Chapter 14)
- **Final exam**