

ECON 380: Labor Economics

Spring 2014: MWF from 1:00 – 1:50 P.M. in Gardner 308

Instructor: Brad Shrago

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Office: Phillips Annex 102

Office Hours: Wednesday, 2:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M., and by appointment.

Course Website: sakai.unc.edu

Prerequisite: ECON 101, ECON 310

Textbook: George Borjas, *Labor Economics*, 6th Edition

The 5th edition is fine too; all of the topics I cover are in both editions, and the terminology is the same. Page numbers differ and graphics are a bit outdated, but the 5th edition is much cheaper.

Course Description: ECON 380 applies concepts from microeconomic theory to the study of labor markets. In this course, we will apply the ideas you learned in ECON 101 and ECON 310 to various topics in labor economics as a means of understanding labor market behavior.

Expectations: All course content is fair game for exams. Students are strongly encouraged to attend lectures and complete both assigned readings and homework assignments. Questions and discussion are encouraged during lecture. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated, and the instructor may institute specific rules to foster a productive class environment.

Grading: Students will be evaluated through six homework assignments, three in-class exams, and one cumulative final exam. These components are weighted as follows:

Homework: 5% each (total 30%)

Midterm 1: 12%

Midterm 2: 12%

Midterm 3: 10%

Final Exam: 36%

Letter grades are determined based on these components, and are assigned as follows:

A: 93 – 100; A-: 90 – 92.99

B+: 87 – 89.99, B: 83 – 86.99, B-: 80 – 82.99

C+: 77 – 79.99, C: 70 – 76.99, C-: 68 – 69.99

D+: 66 – 67.99; D: 60 – 65.99

F: 0 – 59.99

Should the class perform in an exemplary manner, it is possible for the entire class to be assigned the top mark. Cumulative scores will not be rounded. For example, a student who scores a course average of 89.99% will receive a B+ while a student who scores a 90.00% will receive an A-.

Homework: Six graded homework assignments will be given throughout the term. Students are encouraged to work together on homework assignments. However, each student must hand in their own work. Late homework will be given half credit if it is turned in within one week of the due date, but no credit if it is turned in any later.

Exams: Three in-class exams will be given during the course. Midterms will be administered on the following dates during regular course hours in the standard classroom:

Midterm 1: Wednesday, February 12

Midterm 2: Wednesday, March 19

Midterm 3: Wednesday, April 16

No makeup exams will be provided. Students who are absent from an exam must inform the instructor in a timely manner of the reason of their absence; for planned absences the instructor should be contacted as soon as possible. Students who miss any of the midterms with an excused absence will have the weight of the missed midterm spread evenly across the remaining exam(s). Those who are not excused will receive a 0 for the missed exam.

Final Exam: The final exam is scheduled for **Thursday, May 1 at 12:00 PM** in Gardner 308. All students must take the final exam at this time unless they have received official permission from the University in writing.

Regrade Requests: Regrade requests must be submitted in writing within one week of the exam or homework being returned. Students must include a clear explanation of why they believe a grading error has occurred.

Honor Code: The UNC Honor Code (honor.unc.edu) is in effect at all times.