

## Economics 480: Labor Economics

Instructor: Clement Joubert  
Email: [joubertc@email.unc.edu](mailto:joubertc@email.unc.edu)  
Website: Course material will be posted on the course's Sakai site  
(<https://sakai.unc.edu/portal/site/ECON480F13>)  
Office hours: Gardner 208A, Thursdays 8:00am to 9:30am

Assistant: Lisa Gaines  
Email: [lgaines@email.unc.edu](mailto:lgaines@email.unc.edu)

Meeting times: Fall 2013, TuTh 2:00PM - 3:15PM (section 1)  
TuTh 3:30PM - 4:45PM (section 2)  
Meeting place: Gardner 308

References: Borjas: Modern Labor Economics, 6th edition.

Prerequisites: Intermediate microeconomics and calculus

**Scope of the course:** The course will start with the neoclassical approach to modeling the labor supply of workers, the firm's employment decision, and the equilibrium on the labor market. The theory will then be applied and extended to topics that include schooling decisions and human capital, compensating wage differentials, or job search and unemployment. We will also cover labor mobility and migration decisions, the wage structure and income inequality and labor market discrimination.

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is strongly encouraged, but I don't monitor attendance formally. I expect that you will submit assignments on time and that you know any announcements made in class.

**Grading:** Your grade will be based on three exams and several quizzes:

First midterm (October 2nd):	25%
Second midterm (November 6th):	25%
Final exam (TBA):	40%
Chapter quizzes:	10%

This weighted average will determine overall grades. At the end of the semester I will determine cut-offs for A grades, A-, B+ etc., taking into account the difficulty of the exams. There will be no make-up exams; if you miss one for a legitimate reason, your overall grade will depend on the other exams

**Homework:** Every week, a few exercises will be assigned, collected, and sometimes graded.

**Quizzes:** At the end of each unit of the course, there will be a 5-minute in-class quiz over the readings. The quizzes will have questions selected from the "Review Questions" at the ends of chapters in the textbook.

**Special grades:** The top 5 final exams will be awarded an A, regardless of other scores in the course. To qualify for this deal, you must have taken both midterms and missed no more than one of the quizzes.

**Academic integrity:** Copying any assignment or exam from an undocumented source constitutes an honor violation.