

## Economics 480: Labor Economics

Instructor:	Stephen Lich-Tyler
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Office hours:	Gardner 202, Monday & Wednesday 1:00-3:00
Meeting times:	Spring 2015, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 11:15-12:05
Meeting place:	Gardner Hall 308
References:	Borjas: <u>Modern Labor Economics</u> , 6th edition. Lich-Tyler: "2015 Study Guide for Labor Economics" (on Sakai)
Prerequisites:	Intermediate microeconomics and calculus

This is a course in labor economics and applied microeconomics. We will deal primarily with four topics: applications of microeconomic models to labor supply and demand; analysis of various markets; and incentives within the firm. The emphasis of this course is theory.

**Attendance:** I expect regular attendance. Regardless of whether you attend, you must submit assignments on the due date, and you must know all announcements made in class.

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

Quizzes	20%
First exam (Fri., Feb. 27th):	30%
Final exam (Fri., May 5th, 12-2):	50%

The dates of the exams are almost certain. There is no make-up midterm. Instead, the weight is distributed across the other assignments. Each exam is graded with traditional ordinal letter grade (... , B+, B, B-, ...). This conversion is not directly based on percentage of correct answers. In calculating your course grade, I convert these into numerical values (... ,  $88\frac{1}{3}$ , 85,  $81\frac{2}{3}$ , ...). At the end of the course, your overall score is translated back into a letter grade (B+ is  $86\frac{2}{3}$  to 90; B is  $83\frac{1}{3}$  to  $86\frac{2}{3}$ , B- is 80 to  $83\frac{1}{3}$ , and so forth.)

**Quizzes:** On the last day of every other week (Jan. 23rd, Feb. 6th and 20th, Mar. 20th, *Apr. 1st*, and April 17th), we will have a ten-minute, fixed-response quiz over the most recent material. The questions are based on the "Review Questions" at the end of chapters in the textbook, and you are allowed to bring one page of your own handwritten notes to the quiz. A student may miss one quiz without penalty. Otherwise, the highest five quiz grades count toward the quiz grade. If a student misses more than one quiz, the student must document all absences.

**Extra credit:** Extra credit will always be announced publicly and available to the entire class.

### Academic integrity and etiquette:

**Quizzes:** Students may bring a single sheet of their own handwritten notes to each quiz.

**Archives:** Students may not acquire my documents from, or place my documents into, any online or physical archive, other than my course website on Sakai.

**Exams:** Students may use writing instruments and no other resources, unless needed for accessibility.

**Technology:** Students may not use laptops, tablets, phones, or similar devices during the lecture, except when I specifically permit it, or when it is necessary for accessibility. Disruption behavior violates section II.C.1.k of the Honor Code. (And, for your own sake, it interferes with your learning.)

**Externalities:** Avoid the negative ones; try to create positive ones.

**Syllabus changes:** The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, including due dates and test dates. Changes will be announced as early as possible.