

ECON 480: Labor Economics

2014 Summer Session II: Weekdays 9:45 – 11:15 AM in Gardner 106

Instructor: Brad Shrago

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM, and by appointment

Course Website: sakai.unc.edu

Prerequisite: Econ 410: Intermediate Microeconomics

Textbook: George J. Borjas, *Labor Economics*, 6th edition (ISBN: 978-0073523200). The international edition or the previous edition will work too.

Course Description: ECON 480 applies concepts from microeconomic theory to the study of labor markets. In this course, we will study both economic theories of labor market behavior and the empirical methods used by economists to test theories and inform policy.

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, two midterms, and one final exam. While the final exam will be cumulative, the focus will be on recent material. These components are weighted as follows:

Homework 30%
Midterm Exam I 18%
Midterm Exam II 20%
Final Exam 32%

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

A 93-100%
A- 90-92.99%
B+ 85 – 89.99%
B 80 – 84.99%
B- 75 – 79.99%

C+	70 – 74.99%
C	65-69.99%
C-	60-64.99%
D+	58 – 59.99%
D	55 – 57.99%
D-	50 – 54.99%
F	0 – 49.99 %

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 one who scores a 90.00% will receive an A-.

Homework: Six graded homework assignments will be given throughout the term (two corresponding to each exam). Homework assignments generally involve a problem set, as well as a brief writing assignment. Students are encouraged to work together on homework assignments. However, each student must hand in their own work. Late homework will not be accepted, and students handing in an assignment after the due date will receive a zero on this assignment.

Midterm Exams: Two midterms will be given during the course. The first midterm will be given on Tuesday, July 1, and the second will be given on Tuesday, July 15. Midterms will be administered during regular course hours in the standard classroom, Gardner 106. 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 either 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 will be administered from 8:00 – 11:00 AM on Thursday, July 24. All students must take the final exam at this time unless they have obtained official permission from the University in writing.

Regrade Requests: Regrade requests must be submitted in writing within 24 hours 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.