Boston College  
Department of Economics  
Ec. 340 Labor Economics  

Professor Francis M. McLaughlin  
Office: Room 480M, 21 Campanella Way  
Class Time: MWF 10:00 a.m.  
Class Room: Fulton 135  
Office Hours:  

READINGS:  

Course reading assignments are contained (1) in McLaughlin F.M., Labor Economics Course Pack EC 340 and (2) on Blackboard Vista. Assigned reading should be done before the class in which it is to be discussed.  

GRADING:  

Grades will be based on a final examination given in the examination period, four examinations taken in class, and class attendance. The comprehensive final exam will count for sixty percent of the total examination score. Each hour examination will count for ten percent. Exams will be based on the material covered in class and on the readings contained in the syllabus. Students must be present on scheduled exam dates. Make-ups will not be given, except at the request of the Dean, and only when the absence is for serious reason.  

According to the academic regulations published in the A&S catalog students are expected to attend class regularly, take tests, and submit papers and other works at the times specified in the course syllabus. Students who are absent on the day of a previously announced test are not entitled, as a matter of right, to make up what was missed, and professors may include as part of the semester's grades, marks for the quality and quantity of students' participation in class.  

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:  

The following statement on academic integrity is excerpted from a letter sent by the A&S Dean to all members of the faculty regarding the opening of the new academic year.  

Among the least enjoyable aspects of our jobs is dealing with violations of academic integrity. We have noted an increased number of these cases over time, with most involving internet sources. Please discuss academic integrity with your students on the first day of class and clarify your expectations in the context of your course and your assignments. Some issues may be ambiguous unless addressed; e.g., are students permitted (or encouraged?) to work together on homework assignments? Plagiarism can sometimes be murky on writing assignments unless you have been clear about the appropriate extent of referencing and footnoting, especially with web sources. I urge you to place the following link directly on your syllabus, and to ask your students to read the section on our academic integrity policy:  

(http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/resources/policy/#integrity.)
Suspected violations of academic integrity must be reported to the appropriate A&S class dean and will be adjudicated by the Academic Integrity Committee of the College.

Course Calendar

Sept.  8  Introduction

McLaughlin F.M. Economics as Vocation, Blackboard Vista: EconasVoc

Sept. 10 Neo-classical Labor Demand Theory

McLaughlin F.M. Notes on Labor Demand, Blackboard Vista: Demand Notes

Sept. 13 Neo-classical Labor Demand Theory

McLaughlin F.M. Notes on Labor Demand, Blackboard Vista: Demand Notes

Demand Problems, Blackboard Vista: DemandProb

Sept. 15 Neo-classical Labor Supply Theory

McLaughlin F.M. Notes on Labor Supply, Blackboard Vista: Supply Notes

Supply Problems, Blackboard Vista: SupplyProb

Sept. 17 Wage Structure

Smith. Adam, Wealth of Nations, Bk I, Ch. X, Blackboard Vista: Smith

Wage Structure Problems, Blackboard Vista: WgeStrucProb

Sept. 20 Extensions of the Basic Competitive Model

McLaughlin, F.M. Laborem Exercens and the Value of Labor, Blackboard Vista: LabExercens

McLaughlin, F.M., A Reflection on Papal Social Teaching on the Economy and Centesimus Annus, Blackboard Vista: Centesimus

Sept. 22 Evaluation of Neo-classical Theory


Sept. 24 First Hour Exam

Sept. 27 Institutional Labor Economics: John Commons

McLaughlin, Francis, John Rogers Commons: “Are His Insights Important in Teaching Modern Labor Economics?” Blackboard Vista: CommonsDft

Sept. 29 Institutional Labor Economics: John Commons


Oct. 1 Industrial Relations Systems Theory


Oct. 4 Industrial Relations Systems


Oct. 6 United States Labor Union History


Oct. 8 Second Hour Exam

Oct. 11 Columbus Day Holiday

Oct. 13 U.S. Labor Law to 1842


Duplex v. Deering, Blackboard Vista:: Duplex

Oct. 18 U.S. Labor Law since 1932 I
Notes on Belfort, “Labor and Employment Law at the Millenium”
Boston College Law Review, Vol. 43. Blackboard Vista:
LabLawNotes

Oct. 20 U.S. Labor Law since 1932 II

Kaufman, B.E., & Lewin, D., “Is the NLRA still relevant to
Today’s Economy and Workplace?” Industrial Relations Research
Association Series: Proceedings of the Fiftieth Annual Meeting,
V. 2, Jan. 3-5, 1998, pp. 1113-1125. Course Pack

17, 2010, Blackboard Vista; Liebman

Craver, Charles, “The NLRA at Seventy,” Blackboard Vista:
Craver

Getman, Julius, “The NLRA at Seventy,” Blackboard Vista: Getman

Morris, Charles, “Members Only Collective Bargaining,”
Blackboard Vista: Morris

Oct. 22 Policy Issue: The Permanent Replacement of Strikers

National Labor Relations Board v. Mackay Blackboard Vista:
Mackay

McCartin, Joseph A., “PATCO, Permanent Replacement, and the
Loss of Labor’s Strike Weapon, “Perspectives on Work, V. 10,

Getman, Julius, “After the Strike: The Lasting Impact of Hiring
Replacements,” Perspectives on Work, V. 10, No. 1, IRRA 2006,
pp. 20-22. Course Pack

Long, John, “The Campaign to Save Labor’s Only True Weapon,
Course Pack

Perspective,” Perspectives on Work, V. 10, No. I, IRRA 2006,
pp. 26-27. Course Pack

Oct. 25 Policy Issue: Card Check v. Certification Elections

Brody, David, “Labor Law Reform: Taking a Long View,
Perspectives on Work, V. 7, No.1, IRRA 2003, pp. 16-18. Course
Pack

Kennedy, Edward, “Leveling the Playing Field,” Blackboard
Vista: Kennedy

Taylor Stuart and McLaughlin, Francis on Employee Free Choice
Act, Blackboard Vista: Free Choice

Gould William, New Labor Law Reform Variations on an Old Theme:
Is the Employee Free Choice Act the Answer? LOUISIANA LAW
Oct. 27 Policy Issue: Resolution of Labor Disputes


Estreicher, Sam, Living with Gardner-Denver, Perspectives on Work, V. 8, No.1, IRRA 2004, pp. 23-25. Course Pack

Oct. 29 Policy Issue: First Contract Arbitration


Nov. 1 Third Hour Exam

Nov. 3 Policy Issue: Labor Law Reform


Nov. 5 Women’s wages and earnings and the Discrimination Question


Nov. 8 Discrimination in the Work Place: The experience of Black Men


Nov. 10 Civil rights Law and Discrimination


Nov. 12 Policy Issue: Affirmative Action
Nov. 15 Fourth Hour Exam

Nov. 17 Earnings Inequality and Low Wages


Nov. 19 Balancing Labor Market Competition and Regulation


Nov. 22 The Immigration Question


Nov. 24 Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 29 The Minimum Wage Question

Dec.  1  The Impact of Unions I


Dec.  3  The Impact of Unions II


Dec.  6  The Future of Unions in the United States


Dec.  8  The Revitalization of the CWA

Dec. 10  Study Days Begin

Dec. 14  Final Examination at 9:00 a.m.