Boston College  
Department of Economics  
Ec. 340 Labor Economics

Professor Francis M. McLaughlin  
Office: Room 480M, 21 Campanella Way  
Class Time: MWF at 2:00 p.m.  
Class Room: Fulton 135  
Office Hours: MWF 3-4

READINGS: Course reading assignments are contained in the Course Pack and on Blackboard Vista. Assigned reading should be done prior to class.

GRADING: Grades will be based on a comprehensive final exam to be given on December 20 at 9:00 a.m. and on two preliminary exams. The final exam will count for 40 percent of the total examination score. The preliminary exams will each count for 30 percent. Exams will be based on the material covered in class and on the readings. 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.

The following statement on academic integrity is excerpted from a letter sent by the A&S Dean: 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

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

A. Catholic Social Theory and Labor (Sept. 7, 9)

Canavan, Francis, “The Popes and the Economy” Blackboard Vista: Canavan
Kohler, Thomas, “Quadragesimo Anno”, A Century of Catholic Social Thought, edited by George Weigel and Robert Royal, Ethics and Public Policy Center, pp. 27-43 Blackboard Vists: Kohler1


McLaughlin, Francis M. “Laborem Exercens and the Value of Labor” Blackboard Vista: LabExercens

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

B. The Labor Theory of John Commons (Sept. 12)


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

C. Labor Theory in the 1960s (Sept. 14, 16)


D. Industrial Relations Theory (Sept, 19, 21)


Views,” Industrial and Labor Relations Review, October, 1977, pp. 3-13 Blackboard Vista: ReesetcILRR77


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

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

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

Practice Problems, Blackboard Vista: Problems


FIRST HOUR EXAM Oct.12

LABOR POLICY QUESTIONS

A. Minimum Wages (Oct. 15)


B. Sex and Race Differences in Wages and Earnings (Oct. 17)


Hymovitz, Kay, “Why the Gender gap Won’t Go Away” City Journal In WSJ August 4, 2011 Blackboard Vista: HymovitzDiscrim


“Notes: Labor Market Discrimination by Sex and Race” Blackboard Vista: DiscrimSexRace
C. Sex and Wage Discrimination and the Law (Oct. 19)

“Notes: Discrimination Theoretical Considerations” Blackboard Vista: DiscrimTheory


“Notes: Discrimination and Public Policy” Blackboard Vista: DiscrimPubPolicy

D. Discrimination: The New Haven Firefighters Case (Oct. 21)

Ricci et al v. DeStefano et al, June 29, 2009 Blackboard Vista: Ricci

Nicole Allan and Emily Bazelon, The Ladder, June 23, 2009 Blackboard Vista: Ladder

E. Earnings Inequality and Low Wages (Oct. 24)


F. Balancing Labor Market Competition and Regulation (Oct. 26)


G. Immigration (Oct. 28)


H. The Union Impact on the Labor Market (Oct. 31, Nov. 2)


I. Case Studies of Union Impacts (Nov. 4)


J. The Revitalization of the CWA (Nov. 7)


SECOND HOUR EXAM Nov. 9

LABOR RELATIONS ISSUES

A. United States Labor Union History (Nov. 11)


B. United States Labor Law to 1842 (Nov. 14)


C. United States Labor Law 1842 to 1932 (Nov. 16)


Duplex v. Deering, **Blackboard Vista**: Duplex

D. United States Labor Law since 1932 (Nov. 18)

Notes on Belfort, “Labor and Employment Law at the Millenium”
Boston College Law Review, Vol. 43. **Blackboard Vista**: LabLawNotes

E. The National Labor Relations Act (Nov. 21)


Why the NLRA? Discussion on LERA listserv, December, 2010
**Blackboard Vista**: Why NLRA?

Discussion of Labor and Employment Relations Systems on LERA listserv, December, 2010 **Blackboard Vista**: L&ERSystems

F. The Permanent Replacement of Strikers (Nov. 28)

National Labor Relations Board v. Mackay **Blackboard Vista**: Mackay


G. Card Check Certification (Nov. 30)

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


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


H. First Contract Arbitration (Dec. 2)


I. The NLRA: An End of Century Assessment (Dec 5)


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

J. Labor Law Reform: An Overview (Dec. 7)


M. The Resolution of Labor Disputes (Dec. 9)


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

FINAL EXAMINATION December 20, 9 a.m.