Topics in Labor Economics
Instructor: Mathis Wagner, Fall Semester 2011, Boston College

The goal of this course is to provide you with ideas and analytical tools for understanding a wide-range of topical issues in labor economics and applied microeconomics.

Your grade for this class will depend on the final exam (50%), your presentation (25%) and problem sets (25%).

Supplemental Texts:
The course will be based primarily on papers, lecture notes and book chapters. However, I and many other labor economists find the following texts helpful:


Course Outline and Readings

1. Human Capital
   a. Returns to Schooling


And as a side note:

b. Black – White Wage Gap


c. Discrimination


2. Labor Demand and Wage Inequality

a. Labor Demand Theory


b. Skill Premia and Technology


c. Immigration


3. Labor Supply

a. Labor Supply Basics


b. Migration


c. Female Labor Supply


d. Disability Insurance and Work Incentives


4. Some Miscellaneous Topics

a. Crime


b. Insurance Markets


5. Search, Matching and Unemployment


6. Unemployment Insurance


