

BOSTON COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

EC 340.01
Labor Economics
MWF 11:00 a.m.

Prof. F. M. McLaughlin
Fall, 2001
Carney 106

Text:

Ehrenberg and Smith, Modern Labor Economics, Addison Wesley, 7th Ed. 2001. Cited as E&S below.

Exams

There will be two examinations given during the course of the semester, and a comprehensive final in the examination period. Each of the two in-course examinations will count for 25 percent of the final grade, and the final examination will count for 40 percent. Class participation will count for the remaining 10 percent. The dates for the hour examinations and the final examination are given below. Make-up examinations will not be given except at the request of the Dean, and only when the absence is for serious reason. Students should be present on scheduled examination dates. Students are responsible for reading the course text, and must prepare for class by doing it currently. Pay attention to the questions at the end of each text chapter, and raise questions about difficulties in class, or during office hours. Students are responsible also for material covered in class in addition to the material contained in the course text.

N.B.

The Dean of Arts & Sciences has reminded faculty that class attendance is required, and may be taken into account in grading. According to the academic regulations published in the Arts & Sciences Catalogue 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.

Office Hours

Scheduled office hours will be held on MWF from 9:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m., and also by appointment.

Course Calendar

Introduction – Sept. 5

Basic Concepts - Sept. 7, E&S, pp. 1-16.

An Overview of the Labor Market – Sept. 10, E&S, pp. 25-61.

Labor Demand in the Short Run – Sept. 12, E&S, pp. 62-73 and 96-99.
Labor Demand in the Long Run – Sept. 14, E&S, pp. 74-77 and 99-104.
Labor Demand in Imperfectly Competitive Markets - Sept. 17, E&S, pp. 78-85
Labor Demand Policy Applications and Problems –Sept. 19, E&S, pp. 86-95
Labor Demand Elasticities – Sept. 21, E&S, pp. 105-120
Demand Elasticity: Minimum Wage Laws – Sept. 24, E&S, pp. 120-132
Demand Elasticity: Tech, Change and Int. Trade – Sept. 26, E&S, pp. 132-143
Non Wage Labor Costs and the Demand for Labor – Sept. 28, E&S, pp. 144-155
Training Costs and The Demand For Labor – Oct. 1, E&S, pp. 155-177
First Hour Examination – Oct. 3
The Theory of Labor Supply - Oct 10. E&S, pp. 178 – 202
Hour Exam Review - Oct 12
Labor Supply Empirical Data - Oct. 15. E&S, pp. 17-24 and 202-206
Labor Supply: Policy Applications – Oct 17. E&S, pp. 206-217
The Effects of Child Care and Commuting on Labor Supply – Oct 19, E&S, pp. 218-222
Household Production, the Family and Labor Supply – Oct 22, E&S, pp. 223-237.
Life Cycle Aspects of Labor Supply – Oct 24, E&S, pp.237-249
The Hedonic Theory of Wage Differentials - Oct 26, E&S, pp. 251-274
Hedonic Theory Applications: Benefits, Pensions, Layoffs – Oct 29, E&S, pp. 274-289.
Labor Supply and Human Capital Investment – Oct. 31, E&S. pp. 290-303 and 331-339
Labor Supply and Empirical Work on Human Capital – Nov. 2, E&S, pp. 303-329.
Second Hour Examination –Nov. 5
Worker Mobility: Migration, and Immigration – Nov. 7, E&S, pp. 340-363
Worker Mobility and Turnover – Nov. 9, E&S, pp. 363-376
Hour Exam Review - Nov. 12
Intra Firm Wages: Productivity and Yearly Pay – Nov. 14, E&S, pp. 377- 396
Intra Firm Wages: Level and Sequencing of Pay –Nov. 16, E&S, pp. 396-414
Earnings and Occup. Differences Related to Race and Sex –Nov. 19, E&S, pp. 415-433
Theories of Labor Market Race and Sex Discrimination - Nov. 26, E&S, pp. 433-450
Thanksgiving Holidays – Nov. 21 and 23 - no classes
U.S. Fed. Programs to End Race and Sex Discrimination – Nov. 26pp.E&S, pp. 450-471
Unions and the Labor Market: Theory – Nov. 30, E&S, pp. 472-503 and 519-523
The Impact of Unions on the Labor Market – Dec. 3, E&S, pp. 503-518
Inequality in Earnings: Measures and Description – Dec. 5, E&S, pp. 524-535
Inequality in Earnings: Causes – Dec. 7, E&S, pp. 536-559
Unemployment Dec. 10, E&S, pp. 560-595
Study Days – Dec. 11 and 12
Final Examination – Dec. 19 at 12:30 p.m.