

BOSTON COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

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

Prof. F.M.McLaughlin
Fall, 1999
Carney 106

Text:

Ehrenberg & Smith, Modern Labor Economics, 6th ed., (Addison Wesley, 1997.)

Office Hours: MWF 10:00 to 10:50, and by arrangement.

Examinations:

There will be four examinations given during the course of the semester, and a comprehensive final in the examination period. Each of the four in-course examinations will count for 15 percent of the final grade, and the final examination will count for 30 percent. . Class participation will count for the remaining 10 percent. Problem sets will be distributed periodically. These should be turned in on the dates noted below in the course outline. I will review your work in the problem sets. They will not be graded, but you are expected to do them as part of your full participation in the class. 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 should 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 for all material presented in the lectures in addition to the material contained in the course text.

Note Well:

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

Calendar:

- I. Basic Facts and Concepts.
 E&S, ch. 1, ch. 2, pp. 25-36
- II. Labor Demand in the Short Run.
 E&S, ch. 3, pp. 60-72, App. 3-A, pp. 93-96.
- III. Problem Set 1 due Sept. 10, 1999.

- IV. Labor Demand in the Long Run.
E&S, ch. 2, pp. 36-58; ch. 3. pp. 72-76; App. 3-A. pp. 96-100.
- V. The Effect of Monopoly and Monopsony on Labor Demand.
E&S, ch. 3, pp. 76-91.
- VI. Labor Demand Elasticity.
E&S, ch. 4, pp. 101-116.
- VII. Problem Set 2 due Sept 24, 1999.
- VIII. Labor Demand with Quasi-Fixed Labor Costs.
E&S, ch. 5, pp. 140-172.
- IX. Labor Demand and the Minimum Wage
E&S, ch. 4, pp. 117-127.
- X. Objective Examination - Oct. 4.
- XI. Examination - Essays/Problems - Oct. 6
- XII. The Labor Supply of the Representative Individual.
E&S, ch. 6, pp. 174-202; App 6-A. pp 214-218.
- XIII. Labor Supply in the Household Context.
E&S, ch. 7, pp. 219-241.
- XIV. Applications of Labor Supply Theory.
E&S, ch. 6, pp. 202-212; ch. 7, pp. 241-244.
- XV. Problem Set 3 due Oct 15, 1999.
- XVI. Statistical Testing of Labor Market Hypotheses.
E&S, App. 1-A, pp. 17-24.
- XVII. Wage Differentials.
E&S, ch. 8, pp. 247-279, App. 9B, pp. 333-337.
Problem Set 4 due Oct. 22, 1999.
- XVIII. Human Capital Theory.
E&S, ch. 9, pp. 286-311, App. 9A, pp.329-332.

- XIX. The Economics of Education.
E&S, ch. 9, pp. 311-326.
- XX. The Economics of Mobility: Turnover, and Migration.
E&S, ch. 10, pp. 338-372.
- XXI. Objective Examination - Nov. 8, 1999.
- XXII. Examination Essays/Problems - Nov. 10, 1999.
- XXIII. Pay and Productivity
E&S, ch. 11, pp. 375-411.
- XXIV. The Measurement of Earnings Differences by Race and Sex.
E&S, ch. 12, pp. 413-432.
- XXV. Theoretical Explanations for Race and Sex Earnings Differences
E&S, ch. 12, pp. 432-465.
- XXVI. Public Policy on Race and Sex Discrimination
E&S, ch. 12, pp. 432-465.
- XXVII. The Economics of Unions
E&S, ch. 13, pp. 472-516.
- XXVIII. The Distribution of Earnings
E&S, ch. 14, pp. 524-556, App. 14A, pp. 558-561.
- XXIX. The Economics of Unemployment
E&S, ch. 15, pp. 562-595
- XXX. Final Examination. December 15 - 12:30 p.m.