

BOSTON COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

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

Prof. F.M.McLaughlin
Fall, 1998
Carney 106

Text:

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

Other Assignments:

At the reserve desk in the O'Neill Library.

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

Note Well:

The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences has reminded faculty that they are required to require classroom attendance in their courses, and may take attendance into account in grading. According to the academic regulations found in the College of Arts and 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. Student 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.

Grading and Examinations:

There will be two hour examinations during the course of the semester, and a comprehensive final during the examination period. Each of the hour examinations will count for 25 percent of the final grade, and the final examination will count for 40 percent. The quality and quantity of students' participation in class will account 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 plan to be present on scheduled examination dates. Students are responsible for the assigned readings, and should prepare for class by doing it currently. Pay close attention to the questions at the end of each text chapter, and raise questions about difficulties in class, or during office hours. Problem sets will be distributed periodically and should be returned on the date due.

Calendar:

September 2 Introduction.

September 4 Basic Facts and Concepts.

E&S, Chs 1 & 2

September 7 Labor Day

September 9 Labor Demand Theory: the Short Run.

E&S Ch. 3, pp. 60-72, App. 3-A, pp. 93-96

September 11 Labor Demand Theory: the Long Run.

E&S, Ch. 3. pp. 72-76; App. 3-A. pp. 96-100.

September 14 Labor Demand Theory: Class Discussion

September 16 Monopoly and Monopsony and Labor Demand.

E&S, ch. 3, pp. 76-91.

September 18 Labor Demand Elasticity.

E&S, ch. 4, pp. 101-116.

September 21 Labor Demand and the Minimum Wage

E&S, ch. 4, pp. 117-127.

September 23 Topics in Labor Demand: Class Discussion

September 25 Minimum Wages in Puerto Rico

Freeman & Freeman, "Minimum Wages in Puerto Rico: Textbook Case of a Wage Floor?" IRRA Proceedings 1990, pp. 243-253.

September 28 Labor Demand with Quasi-Fixed Labor Costs.

E&S, ch. 5, pp. 140-172.

September 30 Review for Examination

October 2 Hour Examination: Chs. 1-5.

October 5 Review of Hour Examination Results.

October 7 Labor Supply Theory: the Representative Individual.

E&S, ch. 6, pp. 174-202

October 9 Applications of Labor Supply Theory

E&S, ch. 6, pp. 202-212; App 6-A. pp 214-218.

October 12 Columbus Day

October 14 Labor Supply Theory: the Household.

E&S, ch. 7, pp. 219-244

October 16 Statistical Testing of Labor Supply Hypotheses

E&S, App. 1-A, pp. 17-24.

October 19 Statistical Testing of Labor Supply Hypotheses

October 21 Cultural Influences on Labor Supply.

Reimers, C., "Cultural Differences in Labor Force Participation among Married Women," AEA P&P, 5/1985, pp. 251-255.

October 23 Wage Differentials.

E&S, ch. 8, pp. 247-264.

October 26 Wage Differentials.

E&S, ch. 8, pp. 264-279, App. 9B, pp. 333-337.

October 28 Human Capital Theory.

E&S, ch. 9, pp. 286-311, App. 9A, pp.329-332.

October 30 Human Capital Theory.

November 2 The Economics of Education.

E&S, ch. 9, pp. 311-326.

November 4 The Economics of Mobility: Turnover, and Migration.

E&S, ch. 10, pp. 338-372.

November 6 Hour Examination Chs. 6-10

November 9 Review of Hour Examination Results

November 11 Pay and Productivity

E&S, ch. 11, pp. 375-411.

November 13 Earnings Differences by Race and Sex.

E&S, ch. 12, pp. 413-432.

November 16 Explanations for Race and Sex Earnings Differences

E&S, ch. 12, pp. 432-465.

November 18 Public Policy on Race and Sex Discrimination.

E&S, ch. 12, pp. 432-465.

November 20 Economic Theory and Unions

E&S, ch. 13, pp. 472-504.

November 23 The Impact of Unions.

Kerr, C., "Labor Markets: Their Character and Consequences." in Schultz & Coleman, ibid., pp. 351-365

November 25 Thanksgiving Holiday

November 27 Thanksgiving Holiday

November 30 The Impact of Unions.

E&S, ch. 13, pp. 504-516.
Freeman R. and Medoff J., "The Two Faces of Unionism," Public Interest,
(Fall, 1979,) pp. 69-93.

December 2 The Distribution of Earnings

E&S, ch, 14, pp. 524-556, App. 14A, pp. 558-561.

December 4 The Distribution of Earnings

December 7 The Economics of Unemployment

E&S, ch. 15, pp. 562-595

December 12 Final Examination Chs. 1-15. 12:30 p.m.