

Fall Semester, 2008-09

EC 340 – Labor Economics

Instructor: Professor F. M. McLaughlin

Office: 21 Campanella Way, Room 492

Office Hours: MW and by arrangement

Class Meetings: MW 3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Place: Campion 200

PREREQUISITE: EC 201 or 203 (may be taken concurrently)

READINGS:

Course reading assignments are contained (1) in McLaughlin F.M., Labor Economics Course Pack EC 340 and (2) on Blackboard Vista. Assigned reading should be done before the class in which it is to be discussed.

GRADING:

Grades will be based on a midterm exam given on October , a final exam given in the examination period, and on class participation. The final exam will be comprehensive. Class attendance is required. The comprehensive final exam will be weighted fifty percent more heavily than the midterm exam. Exams will be based on the material covered in class and on the readings contained in the syllabus. Students must be present on scheduled exam dates. 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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

The following statement on academic integrity is excerpted from a letter sent by the A&S Dean to all members of the faculty regarding the opening of the new academic year.

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:

NEOCLASSICAL LABOR ECONOMICS September 3 and 8

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, Bk I, Ch. X, Blackboard Vista: Smith
Labor Market Problems, Blackboard Vista: Problems

LIMITATIONS OF THE NEOCLASSICAL APPROACH September 10

Rees, Albert, The Role of Fairness in Wage Determination, Journal of Labor Economics, vol. 11, no. 1, January, 1993, pp. 243-252. Blackboard Vista: Fairness
Kerr, Clark, Labor Markets: Their Character and Consequences, American Economic Review, May 1950, pp. 278-91. Blackboard Vista: LaborMarkChar

THE HARVEST LABOR MARKET September 15

Fisher, Lloyd, The Harvest Labor Market, Quarterly Journal of Economics, November 1951, pp. 463-491. Blackboard Vista: Harvest
Pawell, Miriam, Series on United Farm Workers, L.A. Times, January 8 through 11, 2007. Blackboard Vista: UFW

THE INSTITUTIONAL LABOR ECONOMICS OF JOHN COMMONS September 17 and 22

Commons John R. "American Shoemakers, 1648-1895 A Sketch of Industrial Evolution," Quarterly Journal of Economics, Vol. 24, November 1909, pp. 39-83. Blackboard Vista:: Shoemakers
Kaufman, Bruce E., "Labor Markets and Employment Regulation: The View of the 'Old' Institutionalists," in Government Regulation of the Employment Relationship, Industrial Relations Research Association Series, Kaufman, B. [editor], 1997, pp. 11-55. Course Pack

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND LABOR September 24

McLaughlin, Francis M., "Laborem Exercens and the Value of Labor," April 1982 unpublished. Blackboard Vista:: Laborem Exercens.
McLaughlin, Francis M., "A Reflection on Papal Social Teaching on the Economy and Centesimus Annus," February 1992, unpublished. Blackboard Vista: Centesimus.

THE METHOD OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS September 29 and October 1

Schatz, Ronald, A Portrait of the IRRA's Founders as Young Men, Industrial Relations Research Association Series: Proceedings of the Fiftieth Annual Meeting, V. 2, January 3-5, 1998, pp. 1157-1162. Course Pack
Marshall, Ray, Remembering John Dunlop and Clark Kerr, Perspectives on Work, V. 8, No.1, IRRA 2004, pp. 48-49. Course Pack
Kaufman, Bruce E., Reflections on Six Decades in Industrial Relations: An Interview with John Dunlop, Industrial and Labor Relations Review, V. 55, No. 2, {Jan. 2002}, pp. 324-348. Blackboard Vista:: DunlopInter
Dunlop, John, An Industrial Relations System, Industrial Relations

Systems, Holt-Dryden, 1958, Ch. 1, pp. 1-32. Course Pack
McLaughlin, Francis M. "The Development of Labor Peace in the Port of Boston," Industrial and Labor Relations Review January 1967, pp.

Blackboard Vista: Boston Port

Kaufman Bruce, "Employment Relations and the Employment Relations System: A Guide to Theorizing," in Kaufman, Bruce, Editor, Theoretical Perspectives on Work and the Employment Relationship, Industrial Relations Research Association Series, Kaufman, B. [editor], 2004, pp. 41-75. Course Pack

ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LAW IN THE UNITED STATES October 6 and 8

Philadelphia Cordwainers, in Sayre, Francis B., Cases on Labor Law, Harvard University Press, 1922, pp. 99-102. Course Pack
Commonwealth v. Hunt, in Sayre, Francis B., Cases on Labor Law, Harvard University Press, 1922, pp. 104-111. Course Pack

Gregory. Charles, Labor and the Law. New York: Norton, 1949 pp. 95-104. Course Pack

Duplex v. Deering, Blackboard Vista: Duplex

Kaufman, B.E., & Lewin, D., "Is the NLRA still relevant to Today's Economy and Workplace?" Industrial Relations Research Association Series: Proceedings of the Fiftieth Annual Meeting, V. 2, Jan. 3-5, 1998, pp. 1113-1125. Course Pack

Brody, David, "Labor Law Reform: Taking a Long View," Perspectives on Work, V. 7, No.1, IRRA 2003, pp. 16-18. Course Pack

Kennedy, Edward, "Leveling the Playing Field," Blackboard Vista: Kennedy
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

UNITED STATES LABOR UNION HISTORY October 15

A Short History of American Labor, American Federationist, V. 88, No. 3, Mar, 1981, pp. 1-16. Course Pack

Yellowitz, I., "Samuel Gompers: a half century in labor's front rank," Monthly Labor Review, July 1989, pp. 27-33. Blackboard Vista: Gompers

Wachter, Michael, "Labor Unions: A Corporatist Institution in a Competitive World," University of Pennsylvania, Institute for Labor and Economics, Research Paper 06-17, July 2006. Blackboard Vista: Wachter

MIDTERM EXAMINATION: October 20

DISCRIMINATION: RACE AND SEX October 22 and 27

Radford, Mary, The Affirmative Action Debate, in Government Regulation of the Employment Relationship, Industrial Relations Research

Association Series, Kaufman. B., ed., 1997, pp. 343-367. Course Pack

Holzer, H. & Neumark, D, Assessing Affirmative Action, The Journal of Economic Literature, V. XXXVIII, No. 3, September 2000, pp. 483-488, 491-500, 504-508, 514-525, 532-544, 558-561. Blackboard Vista:

AffirmAction

O'Neill, June, "The Gender Gap in Wages, circa 2000," American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings, May 2003, pp. 309-314. Blackboard Vista:

O'Neill

Welch, Finis, Catching Up: Wages of Black Men, American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings, May 2003, pp. 320-325. Blackboard Vista: Welch

ORGANIZED LABOR'S ECONOMIC PRESSURE TACTICS October 29

National Labor Relations Board v. Mackay Blackboard Vista: Mackay
McCartin, Joseph A., "PATCO, Permanent Replacement, and the Loss of
Labor's Strike Weapon," Perspectives on Work, V. 10, No. 1, IRRA 2006,
pp. 17-19. Course Pack
Getman, Julius, "After the Strike: The Lasting Impact of Hiring
Replacements," Perspectives on Work, V. 10, No. 1, IRRA 2006, pp. 20-22.
Course Pack
Long, John, "The Campaign to Save Labor's Only True Weapon,
" Perspectives on Work, V. 10, No. 1, IRRA 2006, pp. 23-25. Course Pack
Compa, Lance, "Striker Replacements: A Human Rights Perspective,"
Perspectives on Work, V. 10, No. 1, IRRA 2006, pp. 26-27. Course Pack

MINIMUM WAGES November 3

Review Symposium: Myth and Measurement: The New Economics of the Minimum
Wage, Industrial and Labor Relations Review, July, 1995, pp. 827-849.
Blackboard Vista: Card&K
Soon, Paul, The New Municipal Minimum Wage Laws, Perspectives on Work,
V. 8, No.1, IRRA 2004, pp. 41-47. Course Pack
Garthwaite, Craig, An Argument Against Living Wage Laws, Perspectives on
Work, V. 8, No.1, IRRA 2004, pp. 24-36, Blackboard Vista: Garthwaite

THE IMPACT OF UNIONS: ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL November 5 and 10

Rees, A., The Effects of Unions on Resource Allocation, Journal of Law
and Economics, Vol. 6, [1963], pp. 69-78.
Freeman, R., and Medoff, J., The two faces of unionism. The Public
Interest, 1979, pp. 69-93. Blackboard Vista: Two Faces.
Review Symposium on What Do Unions Do? Industrial and Labor Relations
Review, January 1985, Vol. 38, No. 2, pp. 244-265. Blackboard Vista:
Unions I and Unions II
Kleiner, M., Leonard, J., and Pilarski, A., Do Industrial Relations
Events Have Long-Term Effects on Plant Performance? The Case of
Commercial Aircraft Manufacturing, Industrial Relations Research
Association Series: Proceedings of the 51st Annual Meeting, Jan. 3-5,
1999, pp. 136-143. Course Pack
Krueger, A., and Mas, A., "Strikes, Scabs, and Tread Separations: Labor
Strife and the Production of Defective Bridgestone/Firestone Tires,
Journal of Political Economy, 2004, vol. 12, no. 2, PP. 253-289.
Blackboard Vista: StrikesScabs
Bruno, R., Presidential Labor Regimes: Democrats from Truman to Clinton,
Industrial Relations Research Association Series: Proceedings of the
Fiftieth Annual Meeting, V. I, Jan. 3-5, 1998, 1998, pp. 11-22. Course
Pack

THE FUTURE OF UNIONS IN THE UNITED STATES November 12

Waddoups, C. J., Union-Nonunion Wage Differentials in the Hotel
Industry: The Case of Las Vegas and Other Large Hotel Markets,
Industrial Relations Research Association Series: Proceedings of the
51st Annual Meeting, January 3-5, 1999, pp. 161-168. Course Pack
Katz, Harry, Batt, Rosemary, and Keefe, Jeffrey, The Revitalization of
the CWA: Integrating Collective Bargaining, Political Action, and
Organizing, Industrial and Labor Relations Review, July 2003, Vol 56, No.
4, pp. 573-589. Blackboard Vista: CWA

IMMIGRATION November 17 and 19

- Freeman, Richard B. "People Flows in Globalization," The Journal of Economic Perspectives, Spring 2006, pp. 145-170. Blackboard Vista: Globalization
- Goldstein, Bruce, Migrant Farmworkers at the Cutting Edge of Immigration Policy, Perspectives on Work, V. 8, No.1, IRRA 2004, pp. 22-24. Course Pack
- Lowell, B. Lindsay, Demand for Skilled Immigrants in Information Technology, Perspectives on Work, V. 8, No.1, IRRA 2004, pp. 25-27. Course Pack
- Briggs, Vernon, Immigration: A Rogue Labor Market Policy, Perspectives on Work, V. 8, No.1, IRRA 2004, pp. 28-30. Course Pack
- Smith, James, Assimilation across the Latino Generations, "American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings", May 2003, pp. 315-319. Blackboard Vista: Smith
- Sinyai, Clayton, "Unions and Immigrants," Blackboard Vista: Unions Immigrants

BALANCING COMPETITION AND REGULATION November 24

- Belman, D. & Belzer, M., Regulation of Labor Markets: Balancing the Benefits and Costs of Competition, in Government Regulation of the Employment Relationship, Industrial Relations Research Association Series, Kaufman. B., ed., 1997, pp. 179-219. Course Pack

EARNINGS INEQUALITY AND LOW WAGES December 1

- Autor, David H., Katz, Lawrence F, and Kearney, Melissa S., "The Polarization of the U.S Labor Market," American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings, May 2006, pp. 189-194.
- Limeux, Thomas, "Postsecondary Education and Increasing Wage Inequality," American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings, May 2006, pp. 195-199.
- Piketty, Thomas and Saez, Emmanuel, "The Evolution of Top Incomes: A Historical and International Perspective," American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings, May 2006, pp. 200-205.
- Blau, Francine, Widening Inequality by Skill: An American Dilemma, Industrial Relations Research Association Series: Proceedings of the Fiftieth Annual Meeting, Volume I, January 3-5, 1998, pp. 1-10. Course Pack
- Taylor, Robert, The Russell Sage Foundation and Low Wage America, Perspectives on Work, V. 8, No.1, IRRA 2004, pp. 50-52. Course Pack

THE RESOLUTION OF EMPLOYMENT DISPUTES December 3

- Dunlop, John T., and Zack, Arnold T., The New Frontier of Employment Dispute Resolution, Perspectives on Work, V. 1, No. 1, IRRA 1997, pp. 56-60. Course Pack
- St Antoine, Theodore, Mandatory Arbitration: Something Old, Something New, Perspectives on Work, V. 7, No.2, IRRA 2004, pp. 20-22.. Course Pack
- Estreicher, Sam, Living with Gardner-Denver, Perspectives on Work, V. 8, No.1, IRRA 2004, pp. 23-25. Course Pack

THE FUTURE OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS December 8

Kochan, Thomas, Building a New Social Contract at work: a Call to Action, Industrial Relations Research Association Series: Proceedings of the 52nd Annual Meeting, January 7-9, 1998, pp. 1-25. Course Pack

FINAL EXAM