

BOSTON COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

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

Prof. F. M. McLaughlin
Spring 2002
Carney 103

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. The dates of the hour exams will be February 15 and March 25. 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. 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

1. Basic Concepts and an Overview of the Labor Market
E&S, pp. 1-16 and pp. 25-61.
2. The Theory of the Demand for Labor in the Short Run
E&S, pp. 62-73 and 96-99.
3. The Theory of the Demand for Labor in the Long Run
E&S, pp. 74-77 and 99-104.
4. The Effects of Imperfect Competition on the Demand for Labor
E&S, pp. 78-85
5. The Theory of Labor Demand: Policy Applications and Problems
E&S, pp. 86-95
6. The Elasticity of the Demand for Labor
E&S, pp. 105-120
7. Minimum Wage Laws and Labor Demand Elasticity
E&S, pp. 120-132
8. Technical Change, International Trade and Labor Demand Elasticity
E&S, pp. 132-143
9. The Effects of Non-Wage Labor Costs on the Demand for Labor
E&S, pp. 144-15
10. Training Costs and The Demand For Labor
E&S, pp. 155-177
11. The Theory of Labor Supply
E&S, pp. 178 – 202

12. Empirical Data and Labor Supply
E&S, pp. 17-24 and 202-206
13. Policy Applications of the Theory of Labor Supply
E&S, pp. 206-217
14. The Effects of Child Care and Commuting on Labor Supply
E&S, pp. 218-222.
15. Household Production, the Family and Labor Supply
E&S, pp. 223-237.
16. Life Cycle Aspects of Labor Supply
E&S, pp.237-249
17. The Hedonic Theory of Wage Differentials
E&S, pp. 251-274
18. Applications of Hedonic Theory: Benefits, Pensions, and Layoffs
E&S, pp. 274-289.
19. Labor Supply and Human Capital Investment
E&S, pp. 290-303 and 331-339
20. Labor Supply and Empirical Work on Human Capital
E&S, pp. 303-329.
21. Worker Mobility: Migration, and Immigration
E&S, pp. 340-363
22. Worker Mobility and Turnover
E&S, pp. 363-376

23. Earnings and Occupational Differences Related to Race and Sex
E&S, pp. 415-433
24. Theories of Labor Market Race and Sex Discrimination
E&S, pp. 433-450
25. U.S. Federal Programs to End Race and Sex Discrimination
E&S, pp. 450-471
26. Unions and the Labor Market: Theory
E&S, pp. 472-503 and 519-523
27. The Impact of Unions on the Labor Market
E&S, pp. 503-518
28. Inequality in Earnings: Measures and Description
E&S, pp. 524-535
29. Inequality in Earnings: Causes
E&S, pp. 536-559
30. Unemployment
E&S, pp. 560-595
31. Intra Firm Wages: Productivity and Yearly Pay
E&S, pp. 377- 396
32. Intra Firm Wages: Level and Sequencing of Pay
E&S, pp. 396-414

