Boston College  
Department of Economics  
Ec. 340 Labor Economics

Professor Francis M. McLaughlin  
Office: Room 480M, 21 Campanella Way  
Class Time: MWF at 2:00 p.m.  
Class Room: Campion 302  
Office Hours: MWF 3-4 p.m.

READINGS: Course reading assignments are contained in the Course Pack and on Blackboard Vista. Assigned reading should be done prior to class.

GRADING: Grades will be based on a comprehensive final exam and on two preliminary exams. The final exam will count for 50 percent of the total examination score. The first hour examination will count for 10 percent and the second for 40 percent. Exams will be based on the material covered in class and on the readings. 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.

The following statement on academic integrity is excerpted from a letter sent by the A&S Dean: 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

Jan. 19 The National Labor Relations Act

Why the NLRA? Discussion on LERA listserv, December, 2010
Blackboard Vista: Why NLRA?

Jan. 21 The National Labor Relations Board Proposed Posting Rule
Bureau Of National Affairs, The NLRB Proposed Posting Rule, December, 2010 Blackboard Vista: Posting Rule
Posting Rule: Discussion on LERA listserv, December, 2010 Blackboard Vista: Posting Discussion

Jan. 24 The NLRA and the Labor and Employment Relations System
Labor and Employment Relations Systems: Discussion on LERA listserv, December, 2010 Blackboard Vista: L&ERSystems

Jan. 26 The NLRA: An End of Century Assessment

Jan. 28 The NLRA and Reform
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

Jan. 31 Hour Examination

Feb. 2 Catholic Social Principles and Labor
McLaughlin F.M. “Economics as Vocation,” Blackboard Vista: EconasVoc
Canavan, Francis, “The Popes and the Economy” Blackboard Vista: Canavan
McLaughlin, F.M. “Laborem Exercens and the Value of Labor” Blackboard Vista: LabExercens
McLaughlin, F.M., “A Reflection on Papal Social Teaching on the Economy and Centesimus Annus” Blackboard Vista: Centesimus

Feb. 4 The Labor Economics of John Commons
McLaughlin, Francis, John Rogers Commons: “Are His Insights Important in Teaching Modern Labor Economics?” Blackboard
Feb. 7 Institutional Labor Economics

Feb. 9 Industrial Relations Systems: Theory

Feb. 11 Industrial Relations Systems: Application

Feb. 14 United States Labor Union History

Feb. 16 Labor Law in U.S. to 1842

Feb. 18 Labor Law in U.S. 1842 to 1932
Duplex v. Deering, Blackboard Vista: Duplex

Feb. 21 Labor Law in U.S. since 1932

Feb. 23 The Permanent Replacement of Strikers
National Labor Relations Board v. Mackay Blackboard Vista: Mackay


Feb. 25 Card Check Certification


Kennedy, Edward, “Leveling the Playing Field,” Blackboard Vista: Kennedy

Taylor Stuart and McLaughlin, Francis on Employee Free Choice Act, Blackboard Vista: Free Choice


Feb. 28 First Contract Arbitration


Mar. 2 Examination

Mar. 4 Labor Law Reform: An Overview


Mar. 14 Labor Demand Theory

McLaughlin F.M. Notes on Labor Demand, Blackboard Vista: Demand Notes

Demand Problems, Blackboard Vista: DemandProb

Mar. 16 Labor Supply Theory
McLaughlin F.M. Notes on Labor Supply, Blackboard Vista: Supply Notes
Supply Problems, Blackboard Vista: SupplyProb

Mar 18 Wage Structure

Smith. Adam, Wealth of Nations, Bk I, Ch. X, Blackboard Vista: Smith

Wage Structure Problems, Blackboard Vista: WgeStrucProb

Mar 21 Extensions of the Basic Competitive Model

Mar 23 Evaluation of Neo-classical Theory


Mar. 25 Women’s wages and earnings and Sex and Race Discrimination


Mar. 28 Affirmative Action and Discrimination in the Work Place


Mar. 30 Civil rights Law and Discrimination


Apr 1 The New Haven Firefighters

Ricci et al v. DeStefano et al, June 29, 2009 Blackboard Vista: Ricci

Nicole Allan and Emily Bazelon, The Ladder, June 23, 2009 Blackboard Vista: Ladder

Apr 4 Earnings Inequality and Low Wages


Apr. 6 Balancing Labor Market Competition and Regulation


Apr. 8 Immigration


Apr. 11 Minimum Wages


Apr. 13 The Impact of Unions


Apr. 15 The Impact of Unions: Case Studies


Apr. 20 The Impact of Unions: Case Study


Apr. 27 The Political Impact of Unions


Apr. 29 The Future of Unions in the United States


May 2 The Revitalization of the CWA


May 4 The Resolution of Labor Disputes


Estreicher, Sam, Living with Gardner-Denver, Perspectives on Work, V. 8, No.1, IRRA 2004, pp. 23-25. Course Pack
May 14 Final Examination at 12:30 p.m.