ECON 365 Course Syllabus  
Spring 2005

Course Title  
Labor Economics

Meetings  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30-3:45 in AB 213

Instructor  
Dr. Mark Nichols, Associate Professor  
mnichols@unr.edu; 775.784.6936; 775.784.4728 (fax)

Office Hours  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00-1:00; and by appointment; AB 319B

Required Text  

and optional readings  
Selected articles from Journal of Economic Perspectives


Grading  
Participation 10%
Exam 1 (February 24) 20%
Paper Assignment (March 24) 20%
Exam 2 (April 14) 20%
Cumulative Final (May 5, 2:15) 30%

Grading Scale  

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<th>Percent of all points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>92.5-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90.5-92.49</td>
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<td>88.5-90.49</td>
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<td>82.5-88.49</td>
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<td>80.5-82.49</td>
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Course Policies

The exam dates scheduled above are tentative and subject to change. However, every attempt will be made to hold the exams on the days indicated. You are responsible for taking all exams and turning in all assignments. Make-up exams will not be given unless I am notified prior to the exam, in which case an exam may be rescheduled.

Students are bound by the Academic Honor System. This system is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility a) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the individual's own work, b) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the University community, and c) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the University community. While problems of academic dishonesty rarely come up, feel free to bring them to my attention, and I will work with you to address them appropriately.

Classroom Conduct

Your participation in class is expected and encouraged. However, non-course related socializing or talking will not be tolerated. If it happens, you will be asked once to stop. The second time I will have you permanently removed from the course, regardless of your graduation status.

Course Goals

The goal of Labor Economics is to enable you to use economic analysis and reasoning to understand wage and employment determination in U.S. labor markets. This goal can be achieved through careful reading, class lecture and discussion, the use of critical thinking, and study. The course will expose you to important theoretical and applied topics in such areas as labor demand and supply theory, human capital (education and training), wage differentials, job mobility and migration, internal labor markets within organizations, discrimination, earnings inequality, unemployment, and labor unions.

Reading List and Course Outline [ES Required; optional readings listed]

I. Introduction and Overview of the Labor Market
   ES—Chs. 1-2.

II. Demand for Labor, Minimum Wage Laws, Productivity and Wages
    ES—Chs. 3-4, 5 (131-41).
III. Labor Supply and Family Economics
   ES—Chs. 6, 7 (207-13).

**Exam 1: Thursday, February 24, 2005**

IV. Human Capital Investment: Education, Job Training and Earnings.
   ES—Chs. 9, 5(143-45, 150-60).

V. Earnings Inequality
   ES—Ch. 14

VI. Compensating Wage Differentials, Worker Mobility, Job Search, and Migration
   ES—Chs. 8, 10.

VII. Internal Labor Markets: Wage Structure, Contracts, Productivity, and the Sequencing of Pay
   ES – Ch. 11

**Paper Assignment – Thursday, March 24**

VIII. Economics of Discrimination and Wage Differentials by Gender, Race, and Ethnicity
   ES – Ch. 12

**Exam 2 – Thursday, April 14 (Sections IV-VI, VIII)**
IX. Economic Analysis of Labor Unions
   ES – Ch. 13

X. Unemployment
   ES – Ch. 15

Final Exam – Thursday, May 5, 2:15-4:15 p.m.