SYLLABUS ECON 770: Economics of the Labor Market Spring 2022

Line Number 57666

Tu/Th 11:00-12:15  Snow 321

Professor Donna K. Ginther  Email: dginther@ku.edu
Office: 434 Snow Hall
Phone: 864-3251
Office Hours: Tuesday 9:30-10:30 or by appointment.
Website: TBA

Course Description:
This is a graduate level course that addresses the theoretical and empirical issues surrounding the economics of labor markets. Topics covered include: labor supply, labor demand, the human capital model, wage structure, discrimination, and unemployment. Econ 700 or equivalent and Econ 715, Econ 526 or equivalent are required.

Requirements:
Course grades are determined by a combination of 4 assignments, one exam, and a research paper. All problem sets should be typed, double-spaced with a 12 point font. Math and graphs can be handwritten.

The Research Paper:
The research paper depends upon your interest and econometric skills. You may write a review essay of the literature on a particular topic or conduct original econometric analysis. The paper should be 10-15 pages long. You should plan to have a paper topic by no later than March 22nd. During the semester, you will turn in ungraded progress reports on your paper. All papers should be emailed to me as Word Documents by May 12th at 5 PM.

Grading Policy:
Late assignments will not be accepted. No exams can be made up without written documentation of an emergency. Letter grades you receive in the course are final. If you disagree with how course assignments are graded, you may submit a request for re-grading in writing. If the request is granted, the entire assignment will be re-graded. Your grade will be determined by a weighted average of the total points accumulated on the following requirements:

Requirement: Weight:
1. 4 Assignments 55 %
2. Midterm Exam 25 %
3. Research Paper 20 %

Course-Related Policies:

• Attendance is not required. However, if you consistently miss class, it will adversely affect your grade because most of the material is not in the textbook. Students are responsible for
obtaining missed lecture notes from their classmates. I expect that you arrive to class on time and not depart early. I also request that all cell phones and pagers are turned off for the duration of the class.

- This course requires computer literacy. You are expected to access the course website for access to problem sets, information, and readings. In addition, we will be using STATA for some of the problem sets.

- Any student with a disability that may preclude full course participation should contact the instructor in order to discuss accommodations.

- Any student who plans to observe a religious holiday that conflicts in any way with this course should contact the instructor in order to discuss accommodations.

- This course requires some writing. Bad writing = lower grade. If a paper does not meet a minimal quality of writing, I will not accept it. Thus, I encourage you to use the KU writing centers. When you visit, bring your work in progress and a list of issues that you would like to discuss with the peer instructors. The Writing Centers are open in several different locations across campus; please check the website at <http://www.writing.ku.edu> for current locations and hours. The Writing Centers offer online feedback and in-person appointments, and there is no charge for their services. For more information consult the website or send an e-mail to writing@ku.edu.

**Office Hours:**

Office hours are on Tuesdays from 9:30 – 10:30 AM or by appointment. Occasionally, the instructor will reschedule office hours and will make announcements in class and on the course website. The most efficient way to contact the instructor outside of class is by using email: dginther@ku.edu. You may also leave a voice mail at 864-3251. However, please be certain to leave a phone number where I may reach you.

**Text:**


**Software:**

STATA is available in the Economics graduate student lab. No previous computing experience is required for this course. If you prefer to do your assignments on your home computer, you may purchase a student version of STATA. KU has a Grad Plan that gives students a discount for purchasing the software. Order the software at [http://www.stata.com](http://www.stata.com). You will need to select educational institution, Grad Plan, and enter the University of Kansas to get the discount.
Tentative Course Calendar:

Any changes in the course calendar will be announced in class and posted on the website.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Week of:</th>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>Assignment:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Introduction to course</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 1,</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>Introduction to Labor Economics</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 2</td>
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<td>Labor Supply of Men</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Labor Supply of Men</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 2, Assignment 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 8</td>
<td>Labor Supply of Women</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 2</td>
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<td>February 15</td>
<td>Topics in Labor Supply</td>
<td>Labor Supply Readings</td>
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<td>February 22</td>
<td>Labor Demand</td>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
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<td>March 1</td>
<td>Labor Demand</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 3</td>
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<td>March 8</td>
<td>Labor Market Equilibrium Minimum Wage</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 4</td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td>No Class, Spring Break</td>
<td>Assignment 3</td>
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<td>March 22</td>
<td>Human Capital Model</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
<td>The Human Capital vs. Signaling Model, Estimating the Returns to Schooling</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 6</td>
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<td>April 5</td>
<td>The Structure of Wages</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 7</td>
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<td>April 12</td>
<td>The Structure of Wages</td>
<td>Assignment 4</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
<td>Discrimination</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 7</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>Borjas Chapter 12 Assignment 5</td>
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<td>May 3</td>
<td>Paper Presentations in class</td>
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Readings:

These papers will be made available on-line under the course documents section on the course website. The readings may be subject to change. Announcements will be made in class and on the course website:
1. Introduction:


2. Labor Supply:


3. **Topics in Labor Supply:**


US Food and Nutrition Programs, Hilary Hoynes, Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach. in Economics of Means-Tested Transfer Programs in the United States, Volume 1, Moffitt. 2016

4. **Labor Demand / Minimum Wage:**


5. Human Capital / Signaling:


6. Structure of Wages:


7. **Discrimination:**


8. **Unemployment:**


