

ECONOMICS 4420
Fall 2015
Labor Economics
T/TH 9:30am-10:50am

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Mary Mathewes Kassis

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

On Campus Office Hours: T/Th 9:00 am- 9:30 am and 10:50 am - 1:50 pm, and by appointment.

Office Location: Miller Hall 1310

Office Phone Number: 678-839-4777

Email: There are two methods for contacting me by Email.

1. CourseDen mail found in your CourseDen course on the course toolbar.
2. UWG email: mkassis@westga.edu

Please use CourseDen mail for all course correspondence. My UWG email should be used in emergencies only.

REQUIRED TEXT:

McConnell, Brue, and Macpherson, *Contemporary Labor Economics*, 10th edition, 2013 (ISBN-13 9780078021763). You may also use the 9th edition of this textbook.

EXPECTED LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

This course involves an in-depth study of the theories of labor supply and demand, wage determination, discrimination, the economic issues related to human resource management, and unions and collective bargaining. To this end, students are expected to achieve the following learning objectives:

- Students will gain a basic understanding of economic theories related to the labor market (LG4,LG7,LG8)
- Students will learn how to use economic theory to analyze historical trends in the labor market (LG4,LG8,LG10)
- Students will learn about current labor economic issues such as discrimination and their implications for workers, businesses and government (LG6,LG8)
- Student will learn about some of the economic issues important to human resource management such as internal labor markets and compensation management (LG4,LG6,LG8)
- Students will gain a basic understanding of the role of unions and collective bargaining in the labor market (LG8)
- The student's communication, research and computer skills will be improved through in-class discussion and writing assignments (LG1,LG3)

Note: A complete list of expected learning goals (LG) for the Economics Department can be found at the department web site (http://www.westga.edu/econ/index_12904.php).

SEATING ASSIGNMENTS:

Students will be asked to fill out a seating chart on the third day of class (September 1) based on the seat that they have chosen for that day. Students will be asked to sit in the same seat every class period following.

ASSESSMENT:

You will be graded based on your performance on three exams, a comprehensive final exam, quizzes, homework, a current labor economics issue paper, and class participation as described below. Extra credit is not an option in this course.

Exams – There will be three regular exams and a comprehensive final exam. The regular exams will be a combination of multiple choice questions, short answer problems and essays. The questions will be based on reading assignments (both the textbook and any assigned articles), lectures, homework, and class discussions. The final exam will be **comprehensive** and will consist of multiple choice questions. **The lowest exam grade will be dropped.** Each exam is worth 20% of your grade. **You are responsible for bringing a No. 2 pencil for each exam.**

Examination Schedule:

Exam #1 – September 24

Exam #2 – October 29

Exam #3 – December 3

Comprehensive Final Exam – Thursday, December 10, 9:00 am to 10:30 am.

Class Participation – Students are expected to be prepared for class and to participate in class discussions. It is also expected that students will arrive on time and not leave early. Class participation will determine 3% of your final grade.

Although class attendance and participation are essential to success in the class, the professor will **not** drop students from the class due to nonattendance. Students who wish to withdraw from the class must do so by contacting the registrar's office directly. The last day to withdraw with a grade of W is October 14.

Homework – Homework will be assigned (usually in CourseDen) throughout the semester. Homework will determine 5% of your grade. Homework will not be accepted late – **NO EXCEPTIONS**. The lowest homework grade will be dropped. To access CourseDen please go to <http://westga.view.usg.edu>.

Quizzes – There will be approximately 4 in-class quizzes during the course of the semester. The dates of the quizzes and the material to be covered will be announced one week before the quiz. Quizzes will be worth 15% of your final grade. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Current Labor Economic Issue Paper – Each student will select a current labor economic issue or event to research and analyze. The paper should contain a description of the issues surrounding the topic and an economic analysis of those issues using some of the tools developed in the class. The topic, typed outline, and a list of at least 3 sources for the paper are due on **October 15**. The final paper should be 5-6 double-spaced typed pages and is due at the start of class on **November 19**. The student is expected to consult at least 3 sources in researching their issue and should be careful to properly reference all the sources of their information and attach a bibliography. One source must be a professional journal (for example, the *Journal of Economic Perspectives* or the *Journal of Labor Economics*). The other two sources may be business news publications such as *Business Week*, *Economist*, or the *Wall Street Journal*. The textbook does not count as one of the 3 required sources. The paper is worth 17% of your final grade and will not be accepted late. The paper must be original for this class – a paper written for another class is not acceptable.

Makeup Exams – Students who miss one exam (regardless of the reason) will be required to take the final exam. Students who miss two exams will only be allowed to makeup the second missed exam in the case of a **DOCUMENTED medical emergency**. All makeup exams will be given on a Friday morning. Students should contact the professor as soon as possible after missing the exam to make arrangements for a makeup exam. **Students who do not contact the professor within one week of missing the second exam will not be allowed to makeup the exam.**

WOLF PACT

By enrolling and continuing in this course you agree to the following.

Having read the Honor Code for the University of West Georgia, I understand and accept my responsibility to uphold the values and beliefs described therein and to conduct myself in a manner that will reflect the values of the Institution and the Richards College of Business so as to respect the rights of all UWG community members. As a UWG student, **I will represent myself truthfully and complete all academic assignments honestly and within the parameters set by my instructor.** I understand and accept that if I am found guilty of violations (through processes due me as a UWG student and outlined in the UWG Student Handbook), penalties will be imposed. I also recognize that my responsibility includes willingness to confront members of the UWG community if I feel there has been a violation of the Honor Code. Ultimately, I will conduct myself in a manner that promotes UWG as the best place to work, learn, and succeed for my generation, and those to come!

ACADEMIC HONESTY GUIDELINES

Any quiz or exam, given online or in class, is an individual assignment where collaboration is not allowed. All written assignments should be written in the student's own words and all sources should be cited. Using another person's words or ideas without citing them is plagiarism. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please review the information from the Department of English and Philosophy at the following link: http://www.westga.edu/english/1138_2219.php.

CLASS CANCELLATION:

In the event that classes are canceled on the day of an exam or that an assignment is due, the exam will be given or the assignment will be due on the first day following the cancellation.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION:

All official communications from the university will be through campus email (MyUWG). The professor will use CourseDen for general class announcements.

CREDIT HOUR POLICY (3 credit hours)

For approximately fifteen weeks, students in this class will generally spend 150 minutes with direct faculty instruction (either face-to-face or online) and work about 360 minutes outside of the classroom each week. This out-of-class work may include, but is not limited to, readings, assignments, projects, group work, research, and test preparation.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Please carefully review the information at the following link:

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

The document at this link contains important information pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Chapter 1	Labor Economics: Introduction and Overview
Chapter 2	The Theory of Individual Labor Supply
Chapter 3	Population, Participation Rates and Hours of Work
Chapter 4	Labor Quality: Investing in Human Capital
Chapter 5	The Demand for Labor
Chapter 6	Wage Determination and the Allocation of Labor
Chapter 7	Alternative Pay Schemes and Labor Efficiency
Chapter 10	Labor Unions and Collective Bargaining
Chapter 14	Labor Market Discrimination
Chapter 15	Job Search: External and Internal

There will be articles on these topics assigned throughout the semester. Information about these articles will be provided in class.

This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course. However, deviations may be necessary.

