

Labor Economics Econ 233

Ken Burdett (Kennethb@ssc.upenn.edu)

435 McNeil Hall

Office hours 3-4 Tuesday and Thursday

The Objective of this course is to introduce students to the basic ideas of labor economics and the resulting policy analysis. I assume that all students have taken an intermediate microeconomics course and have some knowledge of elementary calculus. Let us hope it is a fruitful and fun class.

I will use Labor Economics by George Borjas (7th edition) as the textbook. Indeed, I plan to work systematically through the book. I will hand out notes from time to time.

I plan to grade students as follows:

3 midterms (25% each of the total mark).

1 takehome examination (10% of the total mark)

An essay (15% of the total mark)

Note, there is no final examination.

Below I outline when I plan to cover the different subject areas. Of course, I may go faster or slower than I predict. I will keep students informed of my progress from time to time.

Week: 8/28/17

Chapters 1 and 2

Why labor economics? Introduction to labor supply.

Week : 9/04/17

Chapters 2 and 3

Budget constraints and work/hour decisions. Introduction to labor demand

Week: 9/11/17

Chapters 3 and 4

Employment decision is the short-run and long-run.. Equilibrium.

Take home examination handed out on Thursday. .

Week : 9/16/17

Chapter 4

Non-Competitive labor markets labor market equilibrium. Policy.

Take home examination handed back in class Tuesday

Week : 9/25/17

Chapter 4.

Competitive and non-competitive equilibrium.

First Midterm Examination on Thursday

Essay handed out.

Week: 10/2/17

Fall break 05-08

Chapter 5

Compensating Wage Differentials. Health Insurance.

Week:10//9/17

Chapter 6

Human Capital..

Signalling and Inequality

Week 10/16/17

Chapter 7 and Chapter 8

Earning distribution. Labor mobility

Week: 10/30/17

Chapter 8 and Chapter 9. .

Job Turnover and Age-Earning Profile. Discrimination.

Week: 11/6/17

Chapter 9

Statistical Discrimination

Second Midterm on Thursday.

Week: 11/13/17 Chapter 11.

Piece Rates. Efficiency Wage

Essay handed in on Thursday

Week 11/20/17

Chapter 11 and 12

Wage formation. Unemployment

Thanksgiving break 23-26

11/27/17

Chapter 12

Search.

Week: 12/4/17

Recap. Third Midterm on Thursday