

### Course Syllabus

*This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.*

Prerequisite: EC 2106 - Principles of Microeconomics

#### Course Objectives:

1. To provide a working knowledge of economic theories related to the labor market.
2. To provide an opportunity to apply these theories to real-life situations.
3. For students to become familiar with facts and statistics that pertain to the labor market and where to locate that information.

#### Required Materials:

*Text:* Bruce E. Kaufman and Julie L. Hotchkiss, The Economics of Labor Markets, 5th ed.

*Lecture outlines.* Available in pdf format on WebCT. **You will need Lecture 1 starting with the second class period (August 23).**

Seating and Group Assignments: Students will be asked to fill out a seating chart on the third day of class (**August 28**) based on the seat they have chosen that day. Students will be asked to sit in the same seat every class period following.

Term Paper: Each student will select a topic based on the Census report found at <http://www.census.gov/population/www/pop-profile/profile1999.html>. Topic selection and research question is due **Thursday, August 30** (5% of total grade). The paper written on this topic will contain a complete analysis of the impact the chosen demographic change or statistic would be expected to have on the U.S. labor market. The analysis must be well-grounded in and make use of the theoretical models presented in class. The paper is limited to 10 double-spaced, typed pages, including references, tables, and graphics. The complete paper is due **Thursday, December 6**, and will not be accepted late. The paper should contain the following sections:

#### I. Historical Perspective

This section should contain a concise documentation of how the demographic statistic of choice has changed over (at least) the past 10 years. It is one thing to note that, for example, median income is unchanged from one year to the next, but how does that compare to income growth each year over the past 10 years. Is this a great deviation from the historical trend of income growth? In addition, while it is of interest to note that, "the number of divorced persons has quadrupled since 1970," what this statistic does not tell is what is happening annually to the rate of divorce. This section of the paper is due **Thursday, September 13**. (5% of total paper grade)

#### II. Theoretical Impact of Change on the Labor Market

This section should contain a complete labor market analysis (using graphs, tables, and most importantly, logic) of the impact of the change described in the previous section. How will the change impact the supply of labor? How will the change impact the demand for labor? Will the change impact wage levels, wage inequality, poverty, discrimination, demand for college education, etc.? If so, how? This section should be devoid of any normative analysis. This section of the paper is due **Tuesday, November 13**. (5% of total paper grade)

### III. Policy Options

This section should explore potential policy options in response to the expected labor market impact of the demographic change. This is the section where the positive analysis of the previous section is used to explore normative policy options. For example, does the impact of the demographic change call for policies designed to reverse the trend? If so, how can a policy be formulated to provide the correct incentives to reverse the trend?

When each section is due (see above), it should be turned in with all preceding sections attached. This is a work in progress, I want to see all comments made on previous sections incorporated when the next section is turned in. Always number the pages and always include complete citation references.

Internet Assignments: Students will be required to seek out certain information related to the labor market that can be found on the internet. The first assignment is to log onto your WebCT account and send me an e-mail message. If you do not have access to the internet from your home, you may obtain a GSU computer account for such purposes. You will need to go to 106 Library South (between 8:30am and 5:15pm weekdays); they will set up an account for you and give you information about accessing the internet from one of the computer labs and using e-mail. This first internet assignment is due (the e-mail must be sent by) **midnight, August 23**. The other due dates for the internet assignments are noted on the attached weekly schedule.

Class Discussion: Students will be expected to participate in class discussions. News items, policy analyses, and empirical evidence details contained in the text will provide the basis for discussion in class.

Exams: There will be three exams: **September 27, November 1, and December 13** (at 2:45p.m.). Each exam will cover only the material presented since the last exam (the final exam is not cumulative). The exams are short-answer and essay in format; there will be no multiple-choice or true/false questions.

#### Means of Evaluation:

Hourly exams (3)	20% each
Term Paper	30%
Class Discussion/Participation	5%
Internet Assignments	5%

Office Hours: By appointment. Call 651-3986. Office is on 6th floor of the RCB/NationsBank building. e-mail: jhotchkiss @ gsu.edu

#### Policies

##### *1) Additional Readings*

From time to time, a journal article will be assigned for reading. The content of each article will be considered "fair game" for exam questions.

##### *2) Attendance*

Students are responsible for obtaining any missed lecture notes from their classmates. The presumption of your registration for this course at this time is that you are able to attend class, arrive on time, and not depart early.

The following is formal policy at Georgia State University:  
"Effective Fall 2001, instructors must, on a date after the mid-point of the course to be set by the Provost (or his designee)

1. give a WF to all those students who are on their rolls but no longer taking the class and
2. report the last day the student attended or turned in an assignment.

Students who are withdrawn may petition the department chair for reinstatement into their classes."  
<<http://www.gsu.edu/~wwwphl/adandst/AutoWF.html>>

### 3) *Tests and Grading*

a) There will be three exams. The first two exams will be administered during regular class time. The third exam will be administered during the final exam time. Absence from any exam will be recorded as a 0 (zero) on that test, except as noted below. *Exams will not be rescheduled for any student under any circumstances.* If a student is unable to attend an exam due to an unexpected emergency, and he/she can provide satisfactory written documentation of the emergency, his/her other exams will be more heavily weighted to make up for the missed exam.

b) Appeals to change a test grade must be submitted in writing to the instructor by the end of the first class session immediately following the class in which the test is returned. Verbal appeals for a grade change will not be entertained, though clarifying questions, when necessary, are fine. The appeal must explain the reasons the student believes that he/she should be awarded more points; it must be written on a piece of paper separate from the exam; and there must be no changes, additions, or deletions whatsoever on the exam itself. [Note: The instructor chooses a portion of the tests from each exam and photocopies and files them before returning the exams to the students. Any changes, additions, or deletions submitted for re-grading will be considered a serious, major violation of the GSU academic dishonesty policy.]

c) It is the responsibility of the student to avoid any activity that suggests cheating on tests. Specifically, talking, passing notes, having crib sheets, having books or notebooks open, during a test are among the activities sufficient to justify a charge of major violation of the GSU academic dishonesty policy.

d) Final grades are based on the student's *demonstrated* understanding of the concepts of this course and his/her effectiveness in applying the related analytical techniques. Professional and personal circumstances which occur during the quarter and preclude the student from performing at a satisfactory level will not be considered in the determination of the final course grade. The effect of the final grade on the overall GPA and eligibility to take a future course or to graduate is also irrelevant in the determination of the grade. In short, only actual realized performance in this course is considered in determining the final grade.

### 4) *Class Cancellation*

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

## Lecture Outline

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Week 1	Chapter 1, Introduction <b>Internet Assignment 1 DUE Thursday, August 23</b>
Week 2	Chapter 2, Labor Supply <b>Research Question Due, Thursday, August 30</b>
Week 3	Chapter 2, Labor Supply <b>Internet Assignment 2 DUE Thursday, September 6</b>
Week 4	Chapters 2, Labor Supply <b>Historical Section of Research Paper Due, Thursday, September 13</b>
Week 5	Chapters 3, Labor Supply <b>Internet Assignment 3 DUE Thursday, September 20</b>
Week 6	Chapters 3, Labor Supply <b>FIRST EXAM, September 27</b>
Week 7	Chapter 4, Labor Demand
Week 8	Chapter 4, Labor Demand
Week 9	Chapter 5, Labor Demand <b>Internet Assignment 4 DUE Thursday, October 18</b>
Week 10	Chapter 5, Labor Demand Chapter 6, Determination of Wage
Week 11	Chapter 6, Determination of Wages <b>SECOND EXAM, November 1</b>
Week 12	Chapter 7, Human Capital Theory
Week 13	Chapter 9, Discrimination <b>Theory Section of Research Paper Due, Tuesday, November 13</b>
Week 14	<b>No Class November 20 - Instructor out of town</b> <b>No Class November 22 - Thanksgiving Break</b>
Week 15	Chapter 8, Wage Differentials <b>Internet Assignment 5 DUE Thursday, November 29</b>
Week 16	Chapters 10 and 11, Unions <b>Research Paper Due, Thursday, December 6</b>