

ECN 5491 - PROBLEMS IN LABOR ECONOMICS
FALL 2007
2:00-3:15 TR

Instructor: Dr. Linda S. Ghent
Phone: 581-6331
Office: 2891 (215K) Coleman Hall
Office Hours: 1:30-3:00 MW
email: lsghent@eiu.edu (but use WebCT mail if possible)

Objectives:

The goal of this course is to introduce you to a range of topics in modern labor economics. In addition, you will gain some experience using data to analyze labor market outcomes.

Required Textbook:

Cahuc, Pierre and Andre' Zylberberg. *Labor Economics*. MIT, 2004.

Grading:

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|------------------------------------|------------|
| • Homework problems | 10 percent |
| • Data analysis | 20 percent |
| • Midterm exam | 25 percent |
| • Final exam | 25 percent |
| • Article summaries and discussion | 20 percent |

Please note:

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact me and the Coordinator of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Policies:

Absolutely no cell phones or pagers are to be used during the class. You may not use your cell phone as a calculator. Turn off your phone before class begins.

WebCT

We will use WebCT this semester. Readings and assignments will be posted there. Please use WebCT e-mail to contact me. I will also be available in the "Chat Room" during office hours if you have a quick question. All of your grades will be posted in WebCT.

Assignments

We will have several assignments throughout the semester. Some will be homework problems, while others will require data analysis. If you aren't in class, you need to make sure that you hand in the assignment ahead of time. Absolutely no late homework assignments will be accepted (regardless of whether the absence is excused or not). If you miss class when an assignment is given, it is your responsibility to get a copy of the assignment and complete it by the due date.

Attendance

Regular attendance is necessary for you to understand the material covered in this course. You **MUST** be in attendance to receive credit for article discussions.

Article summaries and discussion

You will be required to write a short 3-5 page summary of 4 different articles during the course of the semester. The assignment will be given one week before it is due. You will also be expected to present and discuss that particular article in class on the date that the written summary is due. You will be graded on both the written paper and your classroom discussion.

Exams

All exams will consist of short-answer essay questions and problems. The final exam is NOT cumulative. However, the last exam will be given during the final exam time. If you miss the midterm and provide me with a legitimate (and properly documented) excuse **BEFORE** the exam, you will have the option of increasing the weight of your remaining exam, or taking a make-up exam (which must be taken before or during the next class period following the exam). If you miss the midterm and do not provide me with a legitimate excuse beforehand, you will receive a grade of zero for that exam.

Exam Dates:

Midterm: Thursday, October 18th

Final Exam: Thursday, December 13th (2:45-4:45)