

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Labour Economics (Econ 450/550)

Spring 2008

Contact: Dr. Glen Waddell, PLC 509, 34-61259.

Class web page: www.uoregon.edu/~waddell/450

Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday, 1200p-120p, Deady Hall 208.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to provide you with a good foundation for the study of labor and labor markets. Over the ten weeks, the course will familiarize students with theories of labor supply, wage determination, human capital, unemployment, gender and race discrimination, and work incentives. From this theoretical foundation, students will explore key developments in the United States labor market over the past few decades regarding inequality, immigration, globalization, de-industrialization, unionization, the computer revolution, labor-force participation and welfare reform.

Textbook: The recommended text is Ronald G. Ehrenberg and Robert S. Smith, *Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy* (Addison-Wesley-Longman, 9th edition). The 8th editions should be considered a very reasonable substitute. While we will follow the text quite closely, I do reserve the right to amend the reading list as we progress through the course. As supplemental to the required text, consider consulting *Contemporary Labor Economics* by McConnell, Brue and Macpherson or *Labor Economics* by George Borjas or *The Economics of Work and Pay* by Filer, Hamermesh and Rees. For a primer in the prerequisite economics consider the intermediate microeconomics text you used in 311 (which you should not have sold, of course).

Office Hours: Consult webpage for current information. You should also feel free to make appointments outside of these times.

Grading Policy: Grades will be based on assignments and/or tests conducted throughout the term (approximately seven in number) and a final exam. Assignments and tests will account for equal weight. The final will be comprehensive. The weights are as follows:

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| 65% | Assignments and Tests | |
| 35% | Final Exam | Consult university calendar. |

No makeup exams will be given for any reason. If you cannot make one of the above examination periods you should drop the class. In the unforeseen event that a midterm is missed due to *serious* injury or illness, or a death in the family, a typewritten petition fully explaining and documenting why the exam is missed must be submitted *within 3 days* of the exam. If the petition is approved, then the weight of the missed exam will be added to the original weight of the final exam. The alternative is to have a score of zero points for the missed exam. Those students taking this course pass/fail must earn a "C-" in the course in order to receive a passing grade. A necessary but not sufficient condition for requesting a grade of "Incomplete" is a "B-"

on all completed tasks. You will receive no grade in this course if it is found that you have not received a “C-” or better in the prerequisite EC311. Further, if you are not able to write the final exam for any reason, drop the course now (i.e., the “no makeup” policy is not negotiable.)

Grade Appeals: Any requests for re-grading on a test must be submitted in writing within *three days* of when the test is returned. If you do not pick up your test when it is returned, you still must make any re-grading request within three days of when the test was returned. A re-grading request should include an argument for why you feel your answer was correct. I reserve the right to re-grade the entire question when a request to re-grade part of a question is made.

Academic Integrity: You may have a pen or pencil, a ruler or straightedge, and a non-programmable hand-held calculator at your desk while taking an exam. Any other forms of assistance or sources of information are prohibited unless specifically authorized. Any violations of academic integrity involving an exam will result in a failing grade for the course. In addition, an incident report will be filed with the University's Hearing Board. The submission of all exams will require the presentation of a valid UO ID card without exception. All cell phones must be turned off during examination periods. It is also a violation of Oregon state law to create and offer to sell part or all of an assignment to another person (ORS 165.114) or to falsify the authorship of a work product (ORS 165.037)

EC 550: Being registered in Economics 550, as opposed to Economics 450, you will be required to complete one additional assignment over the ten-week term. Further, all in-class tests taken as a student of EC 550 will be closed-book. The weights for those registered in 550 are as follows:

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| 65% | Assignments and Tests | |
| 15% | Paper | Due: Thursday, week 9 (in class) |
| 20% | Final Exam | Consult university calendar. |