Course Description
The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the workings of the labor market. A particular emphasis is placed on the topics of labor unions, collective bargaining, human capital, discrimination, and immigration. The early class material will focus primarily on technical tools of economic analysis. As we approach the rest of the material, the course will become more like a seminar and class discussions will take up a larger share of the class time. Please come to class having read the assigned materials and prepared to discuss them.

Prerequisites: ECO 101 and ENG 101 or ECO 120 or ECO 125

Text

Additonal texts will be posted on blackboard

Course Objectives:
1. Understand how firms make hiring decisions: how firms determine the right amount of labor to hire, the wages they are willing to pay, and the right technology to employ.
2. Understand the causes of imperfect competition in the labor market. Understand the effects of a monopsonistic market on workers and efficiency?
3. Understand how labor supply decisions are made. How do workers choose the right number of hours to work, or whether or not to enter the labor market at all?
4. Understand why wages are different for different workers: Understand the roles of compensating wage differentials, human capital investment, and ability in affecting wages.
5. What is the role of labor unions in the labor market? What are the effects of having a heavily unionized workforce? How do unions change market outcomes for union and nonunion members?
6. The economics of discrimination: What sort of barriers can we expect workers to face based on their race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc.

Participation and Punctuality
Participation and punctuality will count for 10% of your final grade. Seeing as this is an online class, I’m expecting students to have access to a reliable internet connection and a working computing device with video, camera, audio, and a microphone. I expect students to log on to zoom on time at 10:50 AM with their video feed on whenever possible. Be respectful, considerate, and engaged during class. If you agree with something that someone says, please feel free to use the reaction features in zoom keys to show it. I will not respond to private messages sent through the chat feature during the lecture.

**Assignments/Response Papers**
There will be approximately 6 assignments throughout the semester. These will consist of questions, problems and/or response papers. You will receive a score for each assignment ranging from 1 to 4 (for be the maximum number of points). You may work together on problems and questions, but response papers must be written individually. The assignments will be posted on blackboard and will be submitted to blackboard or gradescope.

**Quizzes**
There will be four quizzes throughout the semester. The dates of the quizzes will be posted on blackboard.

**Group Research Project**
For the research project you and your group will be examine first-hand of a union/organizing campaign. You will do background research on a particular industry/employer where there is a organizing effort between workers and employers. Your goal will be to determine what the major grievances/source of conflict and the workers likelihood of achieving a good outcome for themselves. Details about the research project will be forthcoming.

**Exams**
There will be a midterm and a final exam for this class, which will each be administered through blackboard. Exams will take place during class time and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Both exams will be open book. If you have completed the quizzes and assignments, you should have a good idea of what sort of questions to expect.

**Grading Policy**

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Research Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
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**There will be no makeup quizzes/homeworks or extra credit assignments.**

**Academic Integrity:**
Statement of the College Policy on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s ideas, words, or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one’s own creation. Using the ideas or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations of the original source.

Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

It is the student’s responsibility to recognize the difference between statements that are common knowledge (which do not require documentation) and restatements of the ideas of others. Paraphrase, summary, and direct quotation are acceptable forms of restatement, as long as the source is cited.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The Library has free guides designed to help students with problems of documentation.

Tentative Schedule

I. Introduction & Labor Supply and Demand
   Week 1, 02/02 – 02/04
   Readings:
   02/04 – Labor Supply and Demand

   Week 2, 02/09 - 02/11
   Reading:
   02/09 – Worked Over, Chapter One
   02/11 - Worked Over, Chapter Two

II. Labor Theory of Value and Surplus Value
   Week 3, 02/18
   Reading:
   02/18 – Labor Theory of Value, from An Introduction to Marxist Economics

   Week 4, 02/23 – 02/25
   Reading:
   02/23 – Capital and Capitalism, from An Introduction to Marxist Economics
   02/25 – Labor Demand in the Short Run, from Modern Labor Economics

   Week 5, 03/02 – 03/04
Week 6, 03/09 – 03/11

Week 7, 03/16 – 03/18

Week 8, 03/23 – 03/25
Review and Midterm Exam

Week 9, 03/30 – 04/01
Spring Break

Week 10, 04/06 – 04/08

Week 11, 04/13 - 04/15

Week 12, 04/20 – 04/22

Week 13, 04/27 – 04/29

Week 14, 05/04 - 05/06

Week 15, 05/11 - 05/13
Review and Final Exam