

COURSE SYLLABUS
ECON 4332 Labor Economics Fall 2009

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Class Times: Room 3346 COBA Bldg., 3:30 – 4:45 PM, Tuesday and Thursday
Office Hours: 8:45 – 10:45 AM and 12:45 – 1:45 AM, Tuesday and Thursday,
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PREREQUISITES: Completion of ECON 2105 and ECON 2106 with a grade of "C" or better.

TEXTBOOK: George Borjas. *Labor Economic*. Fifth edition. (McGraw-Hill Irwin: Boston, MA, 2010). You are expected to bring your textbook to class each day.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A study of wage and employment determination in the labor market. Topics include discrimination, human capital development, labor unions, and unemployment.

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

Upon completion of the course you should have an understanding of the workings of labor markets. You should understand the demand for labor and the supply of labor. You should also have an understanding of such issues as worker mobility, worker compensation, labor unions, labor market discrimination, and the role of human capital in labor market outcomes.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance at all class sessions is mandatory. Attendance will be taken every day. If you arrive to class after attendance has been taken or leave before class is finished you will be considered tardy. This policy begins on Thursday, August 20. Your course grade will be reduced for excessive unexcused absences as described below. Being tardy for class due to an unexcused reason will be counted as one-half of an absence in applying this policy. See the "Excused and Unexcused Absences" section of this syllabus for more information regarding the distinction between excused and unexcused absences.

Penalties for unexcused absences:

Four or fewer unexcused absences	no penalty
Five or six unexcused absences	one letter grade
Seven or eight unexcused absences	two letter grades
Nine or more unexcused absences	three letter grades

EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:

A distinction is made between excused and unexcused absences, as described below.

- (a) An absence will be considered excused if it is due to one of the following reasons:
1. sickness or injury (a note from the attending physician, nurse, or other health care provider is required for documentation);
 2. the death of an immediate family member or relative (a card or program from the funeral or memorial service is required for documentation);
 3. military obligations (a note from your commanding officer is required for documentation);
 4. jury duty or required participation as a witness in a trial (a note from the judge or the clerk of the court is required for documentation);
 5. participation in a Georgia Southern athletic game as a team member, trainer, equipment manager, cheerleader, or in some other official capacity (a note from the coach or director is required for documentation). This policy applies to NCAA-level sports but not to club sports.

In all cases, the documentation must include a mention of the specific date(s) you were unable to attend class.

- (b) Absences due to participation in activities affiliated with the organizations listed below are generally considered unexcused, but will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Such absences will be considered excused only if they are approved by Professor Levernier in advance.
1. honorary organizations;
 2. student organizations affiliated with a college, department, or academic discipline.
- (c) Absences for most other reasons are considered unexcused. Such reasons include, but are not limited to:
1. job interviews and job-related duties;
 2. your wedding or the wedding of a friend or family member;

3. visits to other colleges or universities that you are considering attending;
4. taking an exam for the purpose of gaining admittance to graduate or professional school or to another university;
5. taking the Regents' exam;
6. family reunions;
7. vacations, including Spring Break;
8. the graduation of a friend or relative;
9. internships;
10. meetings with your academic advisor;
11. meetings with instructors or university staff members;
12. meetings with coaches of athletic teams or with directors of university organizations;
13. exams, projects, field trips, or assignments for other courses;
14. having insufficient time to travel to class from a previous class;
15. participation in or attendance at political rallies or events;
16. mechanical problems that render your automobile, bicycle, motorcycle, scooter, or other mode of transportation, inoperable;
17. travel delays;
18. practices for Georgia Southern University athletic teams;
19. participation in a Georgia Southern club sport;
20. social fraternity or sorority events;
21. attending a presentation by a university-sponsored speaker;
22. meetings with your probation officer;
23. court appearances in which you are charged with a violation of the law;
24. incarceration.

EXAMS:

Three exams, consisting of two mid-term exams and one final exam, will be given during the semester. The dates for the two mid-term exams will be announced approximately one week prior to the exam. The final exam will be given at 3:00 PM on Tuesday, December 8. Tests and test grades are open for discussion for one week after they have been returned. After that, they are not open for discussion and the test grade will not be changed.

FINAL EXAM CONFLICT:

If you have a conflict with your final exam you must notify Professor Levernier no later than the end of class on Tuesday, December 1. If you fail to notify Professor Levernier by the end of class on December 1 you forfeit your right to re-schedule your final exam and will be required to take it at the time scheduled for your class in the Georgia Southern *Final Exam Schedule*. The final exam schedule and the definition of a final

exam conflict are available on the Georgia Southern University Registrar's Office webpage.

MISSED EXAM POLICY:

Make-up exams are not given under any circumstances. If you miss an exam, the score for the missed exam will be recorded as follows:

- (a) If you are absent from a mid-term exam due to an unexcused absence, your score for that exam will be 0 ("zero").
- (b) If you are absent from one mid-term exam due to an excused absence, your final exam will be worth 200 points instead of 100 points. To avoid receiving a score of 0 ("zero") on the missed exam, you must provide Professor Levernier with proper documentation within one week of your return to class.
- (c) If you are absent from more than one mid-term exam due to an excused absence, you must meet with Professor Levernier to discuss your situation as soon as possible after your second missed exam.
- (d) If you are absent from the final exam due to an unexcused absence, your score for the exam will be 0 ("zero").
- (e) If you are absent from the final exam due to an excused absence, an appropriate accommodation will be made. In some cases, the accommodation may involve temporarily assigning you a grade of "I" (i.e., incomplete) and having you take the final exam after the semester has concluded. To avoid receiving a score of 0 ("zero") on the exam, you must provide Professor Levernier with proper documentation as soon as possible.

TERM PAPER:

You will write a paper on a topic that you select, with the approval of Professor Levernier. The paper must be typed using Times New Roman 12-point font, be double spaced, and have one-inch margins (top, bottom, right, and left). The paper must also have a bibliography section and, if needed, endnotes. It should be four to six pages in length, excluding the bibliography, and is expected to be free of grammar and spelling errors. The paper is due by the end of class on Thursday, October 22. Late submissions will only be accepted under extraordinary circumstances. It must be submitted as a paper copy to Professor Levernier, rather than submitted electronically. See the "Term Paper Rubric" at the end of the syllabus for information on grading guidelines.

GROUP PROJECT: You will form a group with two or three other students in the class and make a presentation to the class. The topic your group selects can be one

of the members' term paper topics or it may be a different topic. Professor Levernier must approve your topic, however. Presentations will be on November 17 and/or November 19 and should employ MS Powerpoint or other suitable software. Part of your grade for the presentation will be determined by Professor Levernier (30 points) and part (20 points) will be determined by the average of the scores you receive from the other members of your group. See the "Group Project Rubric" at the end of the syllabus for information on grading guidelines.

COURSE GRADE: The three exams are each worth 100 points, and the term paper and group project are each worth 50 points. As such, there will be a total of 400 available points in the course. Your course grade will be determined according to the following schedule:

Grade	Total Points Earned
A	360 – 400
B	320 – 359
C	280 – 319
D	240 – 279
F	0 – 239

HOMEWORK: Optional homework will occasionally be assigned. It will not be collected or graded and will not affect your course grade.

USING A LAPTOP COMPUTER IN THE CLASSROOM:

You are not allowed to use a laptop computer during class at any time. This includes using a laptop computer to take lecture notes.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR AND CELL PHONE POLICY:

You are expected to be attentive and respectful during class so that you do not disturb the instructor or other students.

- (a) If you engage in disruptive or disrespectful behavior, Professor Levernier reserves the right to have you leave class for the remainder of the period. Behavior considered disruptive or disrespectful includes, but is not limited to:
1. studying other subjects;
 2. talking to other students while the instructor is lecturing;
 3. leaving the classroom and then returning;
 4. sleeping;
 5. sending or receiving text messages or surfing the internet;
 6. using a laptop computer;
 7. listening to an ipod, mp3 player, or other similar device;
 8. reading a newspaper, magazine, or book.

- (b) If you bring a cell phone to class you are expected to either turn it off or to select a setting that will prevent it from audibly ringing. If you are in possession of a cell phone that rings during class, Professor Levernier reserves the right to have you leave class for the remainder of the period. During exams you will not be allowed to use your cell phone as a calculator or for any other reason.

DROP DATE: The last day to drop a course without penalty is October 12.

INCOMPLETE: An incomplete will only be given for non-academic reasons, such as a medical or family emergency. You will not be given an incomplete because you did not have time to complete the work for the course or for any other academic reason.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

If you have a documented disability that requires special accommodation you are advised to contact Professor Levernier as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodations can be made. To receive the accommodation you must provide Professor Levernier with documentation from the Georgia Southern University Student Disability Resource Center.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. The minimum penalty for cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty is a score of 0 (“zero”) for the exam, term paper, or project in question for all involved parties. The maximum penalty is a grade of ‘F’ for the course for all involved parties. Also, an incident report will be submitted to the Georgia Southern University Dean of Students. The university may impose additional penalties beyond those stated above after the incident report is submitted.

The Georgia Southern Student Conduct Code defines cheating and plagiarism below (the list is not to be regarded as all-inclusive) and considers such acts to constitute academic dishonesty. The Student Conduct Code is available at <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/sta/guide/GuideWeb.pdf>

- (a) Cheating
1. submitting material that is not yours as part of your course performance;
 2. using information or devices that are not allowed by the faculty;
 3. obtaining and/or using unauthorized materials;
 4. fabricating information, research, and/or results;
 5. violating procedures prescribed to protect the integrity of an assignment, test, or other evaluation;

6. collaborating with others on assignments without the faculty's consent;
7. cooperating with and/or helping another student to cheat;
8. demonstrating any other forms of dishonest behavior.

(b) Plagiarism

1. directly quoting the words of others without using quotation marks or indented format to identify them;
2. using sources of information (published or unpublished) without identifying them;
3. paraphrasing materials or ideas without identifying the source;
4. unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic material.

(c) Being in possession of open notes or open textbook during an exam

You are prohibited from being in possession of open notes or an open textbook during an exam, even if you do not use them. Being in possession of open notes or an open textbook is considered an act of academic dishonesty and will result in the submission of an incident report to the Georgia Southern University Dean of Students. The penalty for possessing such material is a grade of "0" (zero) on the exam. The university may impose additional penalties after the incident report is filed.

(d) Communicating with another student during an exam

You are prohibited from communicating, either verbally, electronically, or in writing, with another student during an exam. Communicating with another person other than the instructor or test proctor, whether or not it is for the purpose of giving or receiving an answer regarding a question or problem on the exam, is considered an act of academic dishonesty and will result in the submission of an incident report to the Georgia Southern University Dean of Students. The penalty for such an action is a grade of "0" (zero) on the exam. The university may impose additional penalties after the incident report is filed.

E-MAIL:

Electronic mail is an official means of communication from Professor Levernier. You are expected to check your Georgia Southern e-mail daily and to read the e-mails that Professor Levernier sends you. You are also expected to respond to Professor Levernier's e-mails when requested to do

so. When you send an e-mail to Professor Levernier, send it to him at his Georgia Southern e-mail address (wlevernier@georgiasouthern.edu).

COURSE TOPICS: In the table below is a list of potential topics that will be covered in the course. Professor Levernier reserves the right to add, delete, or modify topics without prior notice.

Chapter	Topic
Chapter 1	Introduction to labor Economics
Chapter 2	Labor Supply
Chapter 3	Labor Demand
Chapter 4	Labor Market Equilibrium
Chapter 5	Compensating Wage Differentials
Chapter 6	Human Capital
Chapter 7	The Wage Structure
Chapter 8	Labor Mobility
Chapter 9	Labor Market Discrimination
Chapter 10	Labor Unions
Chapter 12	Unemployment

Term Paper Rubric

Your paper will be graded according to the criteria stated in the following three competence areas. If your paper does not meet competency standards in Competence Area I, you will earn a grade of “D” or “F”.

Competence Area I

If you meet the following three standards you are writing competently and credibly and will earn a grade of “C.”

1. Unity

You maintain a thesis or claim throughout the paper. Your writing is organized around a central topic, which acts as a unifying or controlling purpose.

2. Evidence/Development

You develop appropriate, logical, and relevant supporting evidence. Your writing includes more specific and concrete evidence than opinion or general commentary.

3. Presentation/Design

You provide an adequate number of citations and follow the guidelines described in syllabus.

Competence Area II

If you meet all of the above competency standards and, in addition, meet the following two standards, you are writing skillfully and persuasively and you will earn a grade of “B.”

1. Coherence

You use words and sentences, rhythm and phrasing, variations and transitions, concreteness and specificity to reveal and emphasize the relationship between topic and evidence. You explain how, why, or in what way evidence supports the topic. Your writing incorporates evidence from outside sources smoothly and appropriately.

2. Audience Awareness

You demonstrate that you understand the topic and are able to address readers with only a limited knowledge of the topic. Your writing reflects a respect for values that influence ethos (e.g., common ground, trustworthiness, careful research).

Competence Area III

If you meet all of the above competency standards and in addition write in a distinctive manner, you will earn a grade of “A.”

1. Distinction

Your writing stands out because of one or more of the following characteristics: complexity, originality, seamless coherence, extraordinary control, sophistication in thought, recognizable voice, compelling purpose, imagination, insight, thoroughness, and/or depth.

Group Presentation Rubric

Your presentation will be graded according to the criteria stated in the following three competence areas. If your presentation does not meet competency standards in Competence Area I, you will earn a grade of “D” or “F”.

Competence Area I

If you meet the following three standards, your presentation will earn a grade of “C.”

1. **Coherence**

- You articulate clearly in English and use correct grammar.
- You avoid unnecessary audible caesura (uh, errs, um)
- You accurately explain any technical jargon or project-specific terms.
- You explain and develop appropriate evidence to support your topic.
- You incorporate evidence from outside sources smoothly and appropriately.

2. **Unity**

You maintain a thesis or claim throughout the presentation. You organize your presentation around a central topic, which acts as a unifying or controlling purpose.

3. **Evidence**

You include more specific and concrete evidence than opinion or general commentary.

Competence Area II

If you meet all of the competency standards above and, in addition, meet the following two standards your presentation you will earn a grade of “B.”

1. **Presentation and Design**

- Your visual materials are easy to read and understand.
- Your visual materials are used as complements, not substitutes, to the verbal presentation.
- You make eye contact with the audience and avoid simply reading your report.

2. **Audience Awareness**

You demonstrate you understand your topic and are able to convey this understanding to listeners who may not be knowledgeable about the topic.

Competency Area III

If you meet the above competency standards and, in addition, present distinctively, your presentation will earn a grade of “A.”

1. **Distinction**

Your presentation stands out because of one or more of the following characteristics: complexity, originality, seamless coherence, extraordinary control, sophistication in thought, compelling purpose, imagination, insight, thoroughness, and/or depth.