

ECONOMICS 310
SYLLABUS, SPRING 2012
TTH 2-3:15 PM, Strong Hall 350

Instructor: Reed Olsen
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Web Sites: Economics Department - <http://www.missouristate.edu/econ/>
 Dr. Olsen's course material - <http://courses.missouristate.edu/ReedOlsen/courses/courses.htm>
Office Hours: TTH 12:15 to 2 pm; TH 10:45 to 12 pm; and by appointment
Textbook: Ehrenberg, Ronald and Smith, Robert, *Modern Labor Economics* (11th edition).

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COURSE

1. Purpose of the course: The main purpose of the course is to teach students about labor markets, including individual decisions by suppliers and demanders in the market. Topics covered in the course include labor supply, labor demand, investments in human capital, worker mobility, pay and productivity, gender and race within the market, and the impact of unions on the market.
2. There will be three exams through the course of the semester. Each exam will be of the same length and will cover approximately one third of the material. The exams will not be comprehensive but will cover the material since the last exam. See the course calendar and the reading list for exam dates and the approximate coverage for each exam.
3. A quiz will be given one week prior to each exam and will include questions on material covered since the last exam. The quizzes will be useful to students when studying for their exams.
4. The grading for the course will be as follows:

<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF FINAL GRADE</u>
Quizzes	10 percent
Exam I	30 percent
Exam II	30 percent
Final Exam	30 percent

Letter grades will be assigned based upon the total points and the best judgment of the instructor. **I will use the +/- grading system.** Students will be informed of their current grade after each assignment. In general, I will follow the following grading scale, although this can be adjusted at my discretion:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
> 93.5	90-93.5	87-90	83.5-87	80-83.5	77-80	73.5-77	70-73.5	67-70	60-67	< 60

5. Course policies are as follows. There will be **no extra credit nor will there be makeup exams.** You are responsible for making sure that you take the exams and quizzes at the time scheduled. The only time the exams and quizzes may be taken is during the scheduled time. All exams will be given in class. Except for exams and quizzes, attendance is not mandatory although it is suggested.

Academic Integrity Policy: Cell phones must be turned off in class. Students may not use cell phones as calculators during exams, doing so will be considered academic dishonesty. Any student detected participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in the Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures (www.missouristate.edu/policy/academicintegritystudents.htm). It is your responsibility to read and fully understand MSU's Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures.

MSU is an EO/AA institution and maintains a grievance procedure incorporating due process available to any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against. The instructor will make reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. This includes students with an English as a second language handicap. Please see the instructor if you need such accommodation. Students wishing to take exams or quizzes through the Learning Diagnostic Center must contact Disability Services PLS 405, 836-4192 (<http://www.missouristate.edu/disability>) and provide documentation of the disability.

COURSE CALENDAR. The following calendar is given so that you know **EXACTLY** when the quizzes, exams and reading assignments are due. You must strictly follow the calendar. As noted above, there will be **NO** late exams or quizzes allowed.

Jan. 17	First Day of Classes
Feb. 16	Quiz 1
Feb. 23	Exam 1
March 17 to 25	Spring Break (no classes)
March 29	Quiz 2
April 5	Spring Holiday (no classes)
April 10	Exam 2
April 13	Last Day to Drop
May 3	Quiz 3
May 10	last day of classes
May 17	Final Exam from 1:15 to 3:15 pm (STRO 350)

6. **READING LIST.** The following reading list informs you of the topics we are likely to cover in the class and the reading assigned for each topic. Students should be aware that the reading list is not inviolate and may be changed as circumstances warrant. We will discuss in class periodically exactly where we are in the reading list as well as any changes to the assigned readings. Numbers in the reading list refer to chapters from Ehrenberg and Smith.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
1. Introduction and Micro Principles Review	1, 1A, 2, and web
2. Demand for Labor	3, 4, 5
3. Supply of Labor	6, 7
4. Human Capital	9
5. Worker Mobility	10 and pp. 502-505
6. Pay and Productivity	11
7. Gender, Race, and Ethnicity	12
8. Unions	13
9. Earnings Inequality	15