

ECONOMICS 310
SYLLABUS, SPRING 2020
TTH 12:30-1:45 PM, Strong Hall 200

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: All meetings with students are by appointment and will be done on zoom.
Textbook: Ehrenberg, Ronald and Smith, Robert, *Modern Labor Economics*

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. Note that I am going to be giving the quizzes and exams on blackboard. Rather than use respondus, I am going to make the quizzes and exams open book. That means that for the date listed in calendar for each quiz/exam you will have the full 24 hours of that day to start the quiz/exam (except for the final where I will give you 2 days – 48 hours).
5. 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 |

6. 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 12 | First Day of Class |
| FEB 11 | QUIZ #1 (on blackboard) |
| FEB 18 | EXAM #1 (on blackboard) |
| March 13 to 21 | Spring Break – no classes |
| March 23 | QUIZ #2 (on blackboard) |
| March 30 | EXAM #2 (on blackboard) |
| April 1 | Spring Holiday – no classes |
| April 29 | QUIZ #3 (on blackboard) |
| May 6 | last day of class |
| May 10-11 | FINAL EXAM (on blackboard) |

7. **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. 510-513 |
| 6. Pay and Productivity | 11 |
| 7. Gender, Race, and Ethnicity | 12 |
| 8. Unions | 13 |
| 9. Earnings Inequality | 15 |