

DePaul University
Department of Economics

Economics 318: Labor Economics
Professor: Dr. Laura Owen
Winter 2021 Online-Hybrid

Synchronous via Zoom:
501A: W 11:50am-1:20pm
501B: W 3:10-4:40pm

Office Hours: after Wednesday Zoom sessions or by appointment

e-mail: lowen@depaul.edu.

Please type ECO318 in the subject line when emailing me about class.

Please remember that all my communications through D2L will go to your assigned @depaul.edu email. You should check both D2L and your DePaul email on a daily basis.

Text: All readings for the course are available through the D2L site under each module. Some readings are housed on the library's electronic reserve system. Using the D2L link to e-reserves you will see a list of the course readings and will need to choose the link to assigned reading for that module.

Course Objectives: The first six modules introduce students to the discipline of labor economics by examining important trends in the labor market and by evaluating the economist's tools used to analyze these trends. Issues of labor supply (why do people work?) and labor demand (what determines how many workers a firm will hire?) are addressed separately at first, and then the process of wage determination is introduced as an interaction of these supply and demand forces. Additional focus on wage determination asks why wages differ among groups and individuals. The concepts and tools introduced in the first six modules of the course will enable students to evaluate several challenges the Coronavirus pandemic has posed to the functioning of labor markets [Modules 7-9].

Liberal Studies: This course can be taken for Liberal Studies credit (by non-economics majors) in the Social, Behavioral, and Cultural Inquiry [SBCI] Domain and will fulfill the Learning Outcomes and Writing Expectations of the domain. Students will analyze and reflect upon arguments about the contemporary world using economic theory, methods, and evidence. Students will also analyze economic interdependencies between society and its individuals.

Course Organization: The course will be delivered in an online-hybrid format including both asynchronous and synchronous components each week of term. Specifically, recorded lectures are available for you to watch on your own, and links to readings and assignments are accessed through the D2L class site. We will meet via Zoom on Wednesdays to review problem sets and for class discussion. The class was split into two sections [501A and 501B] to allow for smaller Zoom meetings, so please attend the section for which you are registered.

Grading Policy: Students will be evaluated on the basis of class participation (10%), weekly assignments (30%), a midterm exam (40%), and a final essay (20%).

Class Participation: Attendance will be taken at the weekly Zoom discussions. To facilitate participation, students will work through problems, examine data, or respond to discussion prompts each week. I expect all students to attend and actively participate.

Weekly Assignments: The Module 1 assignments [discussion board and submission] are due Friday, January 8th and will count toward class participation. Of the remaining 8 assignments, I will count the best 7 in determining the weekly assignment grade. **Assignments for Modules 2-9 are due on Wednesdays at 11am and will not be accepted late.** All details on these assignments are available under each module on the D2L site.

Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will cover the material in Modules 1-6. More details on the structure of the exam and its administration will be provided in the Zoom sessions and on the D2L site.

Final Paper: The final paper will focus on Modules 7, 8, and 9 but draw on material from the whole course. Specific guidelines for the paper to will be provided via D2L after the midterm.

COURSE OUTLINE

Dates listed correspond to the Zoom sessions and assignments due dates for each module (with the exception of Module 1). See D2L CONTENT tab for details on each module including lectures, readings and assignments.

January 6	Module 1: Introduction to the U.S. Labor Market
January 13	Module 2: Labor Supply--Hours of Work
January 20	Module 3: Labor Supply--Labor Force Participation
January 27	Module 4: Labor Demand in the Short Run
February 3	Module 5: Labor Demand in the Long Run
February 10	Module 6: Wage Determination
February 17	Midterm Exam
February 24	Module 7: Essential Workers and the Market
March 3	Module 8: Public Health, Health Insurance and Paid Sick Leave
March 10	Module 9: Shut Downs and Unemployment Insurance
March 17	Final Paper due at 11:59pm via D2L submission

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING WORK IN ECONOMICS 318

All work done for this course must adhere to the University Academic Integrity Policy, which you can review online in the *Student Handbook*.

The *DePaul Student Handbook* defines plagiarism as follows: "Plagiarism is a major form of academic dishonesty involving the presentation of the work of another as one's own. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the following: The direct copying of any source, such as written and verbal material, computer files, audio disks, video programs or musical scores, whether published or unpublished, in whole or part, without proper acknowledgment that it is someone else's. Copying of any source in whole or part with only minor changes in wording or syntax, even with acknowledgment. Submitting as one's own work a report, examination paper, computer file, lab report or other assignment that has been prepared by someone else. This includes research papers purchased from any other person or agency. The paraphrasing of another's work or ideas without proper acknowledgment."