Economics 318: Labor Economics   **Professor: Dr. Laura Owen**
Hybrid [Thursday, 11:50am-1:20pm]   **Spring 2024**

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-3:30pm, after class, 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 current issues and policy responses related 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 a hybrid format including both asynchronous components and an in-person class session 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 in person on ~~Wednesdays~~ Thursdays [11:50am-1:20pm] to review problem sets and for class discussion. **The in-person class sessions are a required component of the course.**

Grading Policy: Students will be evaluated on the basis of class participation (5%), weekly assignments (30%), a midterm exam (40%), and a final essay (25%).

Class Participation: Attendance will be taken at the weekly in-person 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. Given the need for some flexibility, and to insure that students do not feel pressure to come to campus when ill, I will allow two unexcused absences [no impact on participation grade]. Students who exceed two absences should consult we me about this issue.

Weekly Assignments: The Module 1 assignment is due Sunday, April 7th 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 Thursdays. Please upload a copy of your assignment to the D2L Submission Folder by 11:30am and bring a hardcopy to class. These weekly assignments will not be accepted late.** 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 will be provided in class and posted to the D2L site. **The exam will be administered in class on Thursday, May 16th.**

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

COURSE OUTLINE
Dates listed correspond to the in-person class 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.

April 4	Module 1: Introduction to the U.S. Labor Market
April 11	Module 2: Labor Supply--Hours of Work
April 18	Module 3: Labor Supply--Labor Force Participation
April 25	Module 4: Labor Demand in the Short Run
May 2	Module 5: Labor Demand in the Long Run
May 9	Module 6: Wage Determination Midterm Exam review
May 16	**Midterm Exam [in class]**
May 23	Module 7: The Future of Unions
May 30	Module 8: Hours of Work and the 4 Day Workweek
June 6	Module 9: Labor Markets and Public Policy
June 13	**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."
Use of AI to generate responses to weekly assignments and in your final paper is generally discouraged. I want to hear your original thoughts and reactions to course materials. If AI is used, University Academic Integrity Policy must be followed. "In this context, AI can be considered analogous to a person….In this way, content generated by AI is a "source" and should be cited appropriately."