

Econ 361
UCCS/Spring 2011
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Dwire Hall 255/Phone: 255-4031
Office Hrs: 3:00-4:00 MW (also by appt)

REQUIRED READING FOR *ECONOMICS OF WORK AND PAY*:

1. *America Works: Critical Thoughts on the U. S. Labor Market*, Richard Freeman (RF)
2. *Contemporary Labor Economics, 9th ed.*, McConnell, Brue, and Macpherson (MBM)
3. Newspaper and web articles as referenced

Class Etiquette: Mutual cooperation and respect between students and professor are the bottom line. To successfully complete this class, remember these basic rules:

- **Regular attendance** is expected; enter and be seated quietly if unavoidably late
- **If you miss class** it is your responsibility to check for any handouts, changes in assignments, etc.
- Do not allow others to schedule doctors appts, airplane departures, etc. for you during class - **if absolutely necessary to arrive late/leave early, please notify me in advance and sit by the door**
- **E-mail** is the best way to reach me outside office hours -- I check incoming mail from **official university accounts** daily. Other private accounts may not pass the spam filter.....
- **No electronic devices during class time or exams...cell phones, texting, twittering or excessive talking** are all disruptive to others in class, please refrain so that you can participate more fully
- **Review the LAS plagiarism policies online or with writing center staff. There are strict penalties for violating this, including failure on an assignment, failure in the entire course, and permanent expulsion from the university.** Computers and the internet make it ever easier to plagiarize another's work intentionally or inadvertently... but they also make it easier to catch it.
- If you have a **disability** and seek accommodations, contact Disability Services Office (Main Hall 105& 255-3354) in the first week of classes and inform me of the accommodation requested

CLASS PHILOSOPHY: There should be some days that things you read or I say blow your mind! Otherwise, you aren't getting a good education. College is the time to open your mind to new ideas and information...so rather than immediately "disagreeing" and building your argument try this strategy. Focus first on understanding new information, analysis, policy recommendations, etc. from the book, another student, or your professor. Then take time to be thoughtful in building questions about that based on logic, your prior knowledge, or your values (what many call *critical thinking*). This strategy enables you to be respectful and polite without capitulating to either authority or majority opinion as well as to better understand your "opponent." These are all great life and work skills! Lastly, this contributes to a strong intellectual basis for your own ideas and philosophy -- another important goal for a college education!

Students learn more when they work on their own and when they participate in discussion. Therefore, there is less emphasis in your grade on quizzes/ exams (although useful tools for promoting and measuring learning) and more on your personal writing and discussion. But there are so many ways to earn points that different styles are accommodated (the quiet student who aces the tests, the not so good tester that shares ideas better in writing or speaking).

GRADING: Based on 92% of 500 for A, 90% for A-, etc.

Weekly reaction paper, assignments or quiz @ 10 points	140 pts.	
Class attendance/participation	2-5 points each	135 pts.
Final paper		100 pts.
Two exams @ 100 points each		200 pts
		575 pts. possible

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
Jan 19	Introduction and Overview	Ch. 1 (MBM)
Jan 24 Jan 26	<i>What is Exceptional about the U. S. Labor Market?</i> <i>When Markets Drive Outcomes</i> Reaction Paper #1	Intro and Ch. 1 (RF) Ch. 2 (RF)
Jan 31 Feb 2	Employment and Unemployment Quiz or assignment	Ch. 18 (MBM)
Feb 7 Feb 9	Labor Productivity: Prices, Wages and Employment Quiz or assignment	Ch. 17 (MBM)
Feb 14 Feb 16	The Distribution of Earnings <i>Distribution Matters</i> Reaction paper #2	Ch 16 (MBM) Ch. 3 (RF)
Feb 21 Feb 23	Exam #1 NO CLASS – OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENT	
Feb 28	READING PREPARATION- NO CLASS	
Mar 2	Labor Force Participation Changes over Time <i>Why Americans Work and Work</i> Reaction Paper #3	Ch. 3 (MBM) Ch. 4 (RF)
Mar 7 Mar 9	The Neoclassical Theory of Labor Supply Quiz or assignment	Ch. 2 (MBM)
Mar 14 Mar 16	Investing in Human Capital Quiz or assignment	Ch.4 (MBM)
Mar 28 Mar 30	The Neoclassical Theory of Demand for Labor Internal Labor Markets Quiz or assignment	Ch. 5 (MBM) Ch. 15 (MBM), pp.
April 4 April 6	Wage Determination and the Allocation of Labor Efficiency Wages and NonClearing Markets Quiz or assignment	Ch. 6 (MBM) Ch. 7 (MBM), skip 213-216
April 11 April 13	Exam #2 Wage Structures and Productivity	Ch. 8 (MBM) skip p. 260-65
April 18 April 20	OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENT Labor Unions and Collective Bargaining Quiz or assignment	Chs. 10 (306-331) & 11 (pp)

April 25	Discrimination, Worker Safety, etc.	Chs 13-14 (MBM), Skip pp.
April 27	<i>Where Have All the Unions Gone?</i>	Ch. 5 (RF)
	Reaction paper #4	
May 2	<i>Regulating the Unregulated Market</i>	Ch. 6 (RF)
	<i>Management in the Driver's Seat</i>	Ch. 7 (RF)
	Reaction Paper #5	
May 4	<i>Is Your Job Going to Bombay or Beijing?</i>	Ch. 8 (RF)
	<i>Helping the Invisible Hand Do Better</i>	Ch. 9 (RF)
	Reaction paper #6	
May 9	Final date for term paper submission (no final exam)	

*** Reaction or response papers is defined (for this class) as a one page typed paper, single, 1.5 or double spaced. The purpose of the paper is to share your understanding of the reading and your reactions (questions, additional thoughts) to it. For instance, you can identify what you find most interesting and why, as well as what additional questions it raised for you. This provides a basis for class discussion, although you can certainly go beyond what you wrote once in class.**

1. State your theme or thesis clearly in the first paragraph and your conclusion in the last sentence
2. Directly quote a written sentence or argument if you have been asked to examine it, or for speaker reaction papers paraphrase what was said, You should also reference the pages of an argument/information in a text (ex: Sen, 92-3)
3. Reaction papers are due by e-mail by midnight the night before so that I can review and grade them in the morning and incorporate into class discussion and lecture. They are worth a maximum of 8 points if turned in at the beginning of class, and 5 points if turned in after class has been held.
4. Keep to one page even if you need to single space! Label both your e-mail and the paper (name and due date of the assignment) with your name and the actual date submitted if late on the attachment.

TERM PAPER: Your half to one page typed proposal (**due 2/28/11**) should address the question to be answered, reason for choice of subject, and three or four possible sources. **Due between May 1 and 9. More information to be distributed later...**