



# Labor Market Issues [EC350]



Spring 2020 Syllabus

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## Lecture:

-  On-line through [Canvas](#)
-  [Contemporary Labor Economics, 11<sup>th</sup> ed., by McConnell, Brue, and Macpherson.](#)

## Office hours:

-  On-line through [zoom](#)
-  Thursday 2-3.30pm PDT

## Contact information:

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## Course summary

**Description:** The objective of this course is to provide students with an introduction to labor markets and a theoretical overview of how these markets function. We will begin by studying labor supply, labor demand, and human capital investment; in the latter portion of the course, we will move on to discussing associated topics such as government involvement, unions, and discrimination.

**Prerequisites:** The required prerequisite for this course is EC201. In general, I recommend taking EC311 before taking 300-level electives, as many of these courses build upon the concepts of optimization covered in that course.

**Textbook:** [Contemporary Labor Economics, 11<sup>th</sup> ed., by McConnell, Brue, and Macpherson.](#) This book is highly recommended but it is not required for the course. Several of the topics we will cover follow closely the explanations in the book, thus this is a great resource that will complement the class materials and help you understand the concepts.

## Logistics

**Canvas:** Canvas will be our main resource and method of communication. Lecture videos, notes, assignments, exam preparation materials, and grades will be accessible through canvas so you can visit them as many times as needed. Additionally, any assigned readings outside of the textbook will be posted under the Files section of the course on Canvas.

**Lectures:** I will upload lecture notes to Canvas along with pre-recorded lectures. You may watch the lectures at any time that is convenient for you but I suggest that you watch them on the days that face-to-face class would be taking place. You are responsible for all of the material in the slides and recorded lectures.

**Office hours:** Office hours will be held through zoom every Thursday from 2pm to 3.30pm PDT. You will receive an email with the invitation and link to participate and you can also find the link on Canvas. This will be our main form of interaction this quarter, I encourage you to participate even if you do not have specific questions.

## Assignments and exams

### Assignments

- You will **turn in assignments online via Canvas**.
- Assignments will be due approximately every other week.

**Each student is required to write and submit independent answers.** This means that word-for-word copies will not be accepted and will be viewed as academic dishonesty. If you work with other students, you must list the students in your study group at the top of your assignment. I understand that during this unstable time unexpected things might arrive, thus to provide you with flexibility your lowest score will be dropped.

### Late policy

- Assignments will be accepted **up to 24 hours late**, but it will be **subtracted 2 percentage points for each hour it is late**.
- For example, you turn in an assignment 12 hours late and would have received 85%. We subtract  $12 \times 2 = 24$  percentage points, meaning you will receive  $85\% - 24\% = 61\%$ .

**Exams** The midterm and final exam will be administered through Canvas. More information about exams will be conveyed via Canvas as we get closer to exam time.

**Grades** Grades for this class will be assigned based on the following assignments: homework assignments, one midterm exam, and one final exam. Final grades will be determined based on your rank-ordered position within the class (*i.e.*, the course is curved). You can track your grades for individual assignments on Canvas. The weights for the final grade:

<b>Problem Sets</b>	30%
<b>Midterm</b>	30%
<b>Final Exam</b>	40%

## Contingencies

Course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to change. Information about changes in this course will be communicated as soon as possible by email, and on Canvas. Students should refer to Canvas, read all announcements, and access assignments. Students are also encouraged to continue the readings and other assignments as outlined on this syllabus.

## University Policies and Expectations

### Honesty and academic integrity

You must do your own work. Do not claim credit for any work other than your own. Cheating or plagiarizing of any sort on any component of this class will result in a failing grade for the term and a report of the offense to the university. Please acquaint yourself with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

### Accessibility

If you have a documented need and would like accommodations in this course, please make arrangements with me during the first week of the term. Please request that the [Accessible Education Center](#) send me a letter verifying your accommodations.

### Diversity

The University of Oregon is dedicated to the principles of equal opportunity and freedom from unfair discrimination for all members of the university community and an acceptance of true diversity as an affirmation of individual identity within a welcoming community. All of us associated with the course—you included—are expected to value each class member's experiences and contributions and to communicate disagreements respectfully. For additional assistance and resources, you are encouraged to contact the following campus services:

- Office of Equity and Inclusion: 541-346-3175 | [oied.uoregon.edu](http://oied.uoregon.edu)
- Center on Diversity and Community: 541-346-3212 | [codac.uoregon.edu](http://codac.uoregon.edu)
- Bias Response Team: 541-346-1134 | [brt@uoregon.edu](mailto:brt@uoregon.edu) | [bias.uoregon.edu](http://bias.uoregon.edu)

### Sexual Violence and Survivor Support

The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and gender-based stalking. If you or someone you know has experienced or experiences gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), know that you are not alone. UO has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

Please be aware that all UO employees are required reporters. This means that if you tell me about a situation, I may have to report the information to my supervisor or the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity. Although I have to report the situation, you will still have options about how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need.

If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can call 541-346-SAFE, UO's 24-hour hotline, to be connected to a confidential counselor to discuss your options. You can also visit the SAFE website at [safe.uoregon.edu](http://safe.uoregon.edu).

## Tentative course outline

The next table presents the tentative plan for the course outline and associated textbook reading assignments. As the title of this section suggests, the timing and topics on this schedule may change. I will communicate those changes to you as soon as possible.

**Tentative course schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Suggested readings</b>
Week 1	Introduction & Labor Supply	<i>Chapters 1-2</i>
Week 2	Labor Supply & Labor Demand	<i>Chapters 2, 5</i>
Week 3	Labor Demand	<i>Chapter 5</i>
Week 4	Labor Market Equilibrium & Wages	<i>Chapter 6</i>
Week 5	Human Capital	<i>Chapter 4</i>
Week 6	Review & Midterm (Thursday, May 7)	
Week 7	Alternative Pay Schemes & Wage Differentials	<i>Chapters 7, 8</i>
Week 8	Mobility & Unions	<i>Chapters 9, 10, 11</i>
Week 9	Discrimination	<i>Chapter 14</i>
Week 10	Discrimination & Review	<i>Chapter 14</i>
Final Exam	Thursday, June 11 (12:30)	