

Syllabus Labor Economics Spring 2018

Course Number:	Economics 3351	Professor:	Dr. Christian Raschke
Sections:	01 and 02	E-mail:	Raschke@shsu.edu
Course Title:	Labor Economics	Phone:	(936) 294-4304
Prerequisites:	ECON 2300 or ECON 2302	Office:	SHB 237B
Lectures:	Sec 01: MW 8:00am-9:20am Sec 02: TTh 11:00am-12:20pm	Office Hours:	TTh 10:00-11:00 and by appointment
Location:	SHB 105		

Course Description: Problems of unemployment, wage theory, collective bargaining, labor legislation, and proposals for the solution of labor problems. The recent problems of labor are given special consideration.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, you will have developed an understanding of the workings of labor markets and their interaction with business and political institutions. You will be able to

- describe how incentives for workers and for firms affect labor market outcomes,
- analyze how public policy influences labor market outcomes,
- use economic models to describe the decisions made by labor market participants.

Required Textbook: The following textbook is required for this course:

- Ronald Ehrenberg and Robert Smith. *Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy*, 12th edition. ISBN: 978-0-133-46278-4. It is acceptable to use a recent older edition of this book. Used copies of older editions may be significantly cheaper.
- Enrico Moretti. *The New Geography of Jobs*. ISBN: 978-0-547-75011-8

Resources:

- Tutoring is available free of charge Monday-Friday, 11:00am-4:30pm in SHB 108.
- Department Website: shsu.edu/academics/economics-and-international-business/
- Department Facebook Group: facebook.com/groups/208741956458/

Evaluation Process: There will be three partial exams and one comprehensive final exam. There will also be several quizzes and activities related to the Moretti book. Each exam contributes 20% to your course grade. The total combined score from book quizzes also contributes 20% to your course grade.

The standard grading scale applies: 90%+ A, 80%+ B, 70%+ C, 60%+ D, <60% F.

Make-up Policy: If you will miss an exam for any reason, contact me beforehand with the appropriate documentation. If I determine that your absence is justified, we will make arrangements for you to take an alternative exam on an alternative date/time. Quizzes and other in-class graded activities cannot be made up.

Attendance Policy: You are expected to attend all lectures and you are expected to participate in all class activities. Please be on time.

Cellphone Policy: Smart phones –or any other electronic devices not explicitly approved by me—are not allowed during exams or quizzes. Please put away your phones while taking exams. SHSU Academic Policy Statement 100728 states:

“Any use of a telephone or text messenger or any device that performs these functions during a test period is prohibited, [...] Even the visible presence of such a device during the test period will result in a zero for that test. Use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating and could result in a charge of academic dishonesty.”

Other Policy Matters: Please visit shsu.edu/syllabus to review university policies regarding:

- student absences on religious holy days,
- students with disabilities,
- visitors in the class room,
- and academic dishonesty.

NB: I expect you to conduct your studies with integrity. Cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and the penalty for cheating is an automatic F in the course.

Tentative Course Outline:

- Week 1: Labor Markets
- Week 2: Labor Demand
- Week 3: Labor Supply
- Week 4: **Exam 1**
- Week 5: Unemployment
- Week 6: Income and Payroll Tax
- Week 7: **Exam 2**
- Week 8: Human Capital
- Week 9: Skill-biased Technology Change
- Week 10: Innovation and Manufacturing
- Week 11: **Exam 3**
- Week 12: Minimum Wages
- Week 13: Discrimination
- Week 14: Inequality
- Week 15: **Final Exam**