

ECP3203: Labor Economics

Fall A 2025

August 25 – October 11, 2025

Section RVBB

Dr. Irma T. Alonso

* Email: Canvas Inbox (Please only use Canvas Inbox so there is a record of our communication)
* Phone (Department of Economics): (305) 348–2317 and (305) 348-3281
* Office of the Department of Economics: DM-316 (MMC)
* Office Hours: All communications will take place online. I do not have an office on campus. Please contact me through Canvas and I will be responding within 48 hours, if not sooner.
* Turn Around: Within 48 hours

**Course Time Zone | Eastern Time (ET). Course due dates are according to this time zone.**



**Course Description and Purpose**

This course introduces the study of labor economics.  Topics to be studied include labor markets, labor demand and supply, job attributes, schooling, training, turnover, migration, discrimination, unions, wage inequality, compensation strategies, and unemployment.

This course is offered fully online. The work to be performed during the semester has been divided into modules, each of which contains two or more activities. The due dates for each activity are specified in the relevant pages of the Content Modules. The work to be performed has been divided into activities lasting a few days. The deadlines have been set to 11:59 PM as specified in the Calendar of Events. Each activity will entail taking a quiz, participating in group activities, and reviewing news related to the class topics.  Throughout the semester students will be combined in groups to work together to answer questions posted and to solve problem exercises. Strict deadlines are followed, and late work is not accepted. There is no penalty for submitting work ahead of time so if you want to be free during weekends and/or national holidays, plan to submit your work ahead of time. If you cannot comply with the due dates, this course is not right for you.

**Course Objectives**

This course serves as an elective in Economics, and it can be used as a free elective in other majors, as approved by the corresponding academic advisors.

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

1. CO1: Recall historical events, government regulations, and basic empirical patterns,
2. CO2: Identify key concepts, features, and predictions of the economic models,
3. CO3: Apply economic models to new contexts (or extend the models in new directions),
4. CO4: Analyze with graphs to uncover properties of the models and to generate predictions,
5. CO5: Calculate values of key variables from tables and graphs
6. CO6: Interpret evidence from scatter plots, regression estimates, and scholarly research.
7. CO7: Discuss course content while working in teams
8. CO8: Apply learned subjects to daily lives through searching for news related to topics discussed in class



**Policies**

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

* [Policies](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/142162/pages/policies)
* [Netiquette (Links to an external site.)](https://online.fiu.edu/html/canvas/policies/)
* [Technical Requirements and Skills](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/142162/pages/technical-requirements-and-skills)
* [Accessibility and Accommodation](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/142162/pages/accessibility-and-accommodation)
* [Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/142162/pages/panthers-care-and-counseling-and-psychological-services-caps)
* [Academic Misconduct Statement](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/142162/pages/academic-misconduct-statement)
* [Copyright Statement](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/142162/pages/copyright-statement)
* [Inclusivity Statement](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/142162/pages/inclusivity-statement)

**Course Prerequisites**

This course has a pre-requisite of Principles of Economics (ECO 2023) or the instructor’s approval.

**Textbook and Course Materials**

* **Labor Economics: Principles in Practice by Kenneth J. McLaughlin, 2nd Edition (Required)**
* New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2019.
* ISBN 978-0-19-085699-1 (printed version)
* You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore (Links to an external site.)](http://fiu.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBHomePage?storeId=21551&catalogId=10001).
* The eText can be purchased from Vital Sources at: [VitalSource: Shopping Cart  (Links to an external site.)](https://www.vitalsource.com/cart?utm_campaign=buy-button&utm_medium=publishers&utm_source=oup)
* ISBN 9780190857004, 0190857005 (eText version)

Additional Useful Websites for this course:

* [US Census Bureau (Links to an external site.)](https://www.census.gov/)
* [US Bureau of Labor Statistics (Links to an external site.)](http://bls.gov/)
* [US Bureau of Labor Statistics: Women in the Labor Force: A Databook (Links to an external site.)](https://www.bls.gov/opub/reports/womens-databook/archive/women-in-the-labor-force-a-databook-2015.pdf)
* [Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey US Census Bureau (Links to an external site.)](https://www.bls.gov/cps/)

**Expectations of this Course**

This is an online course, which means all the coursework will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

**Students are expected to:**

* **review the Getting Started page**located in the course modules
* **introduce yourself to the class**during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion
* **take the practice quiz**to ensure that your computer is compatible with Canvas, the learning management system we are using
* **interact**online with instructors and peers
* **review**and follow the course calendar and outlines
* log in to the course at least **4 times**per week
* respond to discussions by the due date specified. **No late work will be accepted**
* **work in teams to submit problems/exercises**by the due date
* respond to **emails**within **2 days**
* submit all assignments by the corresponding deadline

**The instructor will:**

* log in to the course **every**few days
* respond to discussion postings within **3 days of the deadline**
* respond to **emails**within **48 hours,**if not sooner
* grade assignments within **3 days**of the assignment deadline

**Students with Disabilities**

As a college, we care about students with special needs.  To receive these services it is required for the student to self-identify as a student with a disability and to present the required documentation.  For further information and to register at the Disability Resource Center, you can visit the DRC at the MMC in Graham Center, Room 190 or at the BBC in Wolfe University Center Room 131.  To make an appointment you have the following options: call MMC at 305-348-3532, or send an email to: drcupgl@fiu.edu; at the BBC you can call 305-919-5345  or send an email to drcbbc@fiu.edu

**Career Resources:**

Visit Career and Talent Development for career planning, job search resources, resume review, interview preparation, and more at **career.fiu.edu**

[**Login to Handshake (Links to an external site.)**](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/fiu.joinhandshake.com/login?ref=app-domain__;!!FjuHKAHQs5udqho!Nd86rRz51i9EwBhT73iCOxPeE0tibJA7W0jtzmBDNJDgzkL5vlEx0Y0CM4502Q-JGGFgS1_Ix2TZmCwbtWvp$)

**Meet with a Career Coach**

Students and alumni can access resources and make appointments through FIU Handshake.

[**Individual Career Prep (Links to an external site.)**](https://career.fiu.edu/professional-development/individual-career-preparation/index.html)

**Handshake**is the school’s official job/internship portal. Thousands of employers are hiring students on Handshake. Once you fill in your career interests, you’ll get personalized recommendations for jobs and events and direct outreach from employers interested in students like you—*80% of students with a complete Handshake profile get messaged by employers*!

* Activate your account at [https://fiu.joinhandshake.com/login (Links to an external site.)](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/fiu.joinhandshake.com/login__;!!FjuHKAHQs5udqho!Nd86rRz51i9EwBhT73iCOxPeE0tibJA7W0jtzmBDNJDgzkL5vlEx0Y0CM4502Q-JGGFgS1_Ix2TZmMUXGeYf$)
* Download the Handshake app from [Apple (Links to an external site.)](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/apps.apple.com/app/apple-store/id1220620171?pt=96161867&ct=edu-stu-ig-giveaway&mt=8__;!!FjuHKAHQs5udqho!Nd86rRz51i9EwBhT73iCOxPeE0tibJA7W0jtzmBDNJDgzkL5vlEx0Y0CM4502Q-JGGFgS1_Ix2TZmPY0VJfn$) or [Google Play (Links to an external site.)](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.joinhandshake.student&hl=en_US&utm_campaign=edu-stu-ig-giveaway&utm_medium=social&utm_source=insta__;!!FjuHKAHQs5udqho!Nd86rRz51i9EwBhT73iCOxPeE0tibJA7W0jtzmBDNJDgzkL5vlEx0Y0CM4502Q-JGGFgS1_Ix2TZmEapvfI6$) to receive notifications on the latest jobs, events, and employers
* Learn more: [“5 Reasons You Need Handshake More Than Other Career Sites” (Links to an external site.)](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/joinhandshake.com/blog/students/5-reasons-you-need-handshake-more-than-other-career-sites/__;!!FjuHKAHQs5udqho!Nd86rRz51i9EwBhT73iCOxPeE0tibJA7W0jtzmBDNJDgzkL5vlEx0Y0CM4502Q-JGGFgS1_Ix2TZmNqjC1Uy$)



**Course structure**

The course will cover a total of 12 chapters of the textbook. There will be quizzes and/or additional assignments as indicated for some chapters. In particular, the course will require each student to submit reviews of news related to issues discussed in class. As well there is the requirement of a Group Project.

The topics to be covered in the course are:

* Chapter 1: Introduction to Labor Economics
* Chapter 2: Labor Markets
* Chapter 3: Labor Supply
* Chapter 4: Labor Demand
* Chapter 5: Job Attributes
* Chapter 6: Schooling
* Chapter 7: Training, Turnover, and Migration
* Chapter 8: Discrimination
* Chapter 9: Unions
* Chapter 10: Wage Inequality
* Chapter 11: Compensation Strategies
* Chapter 12: Unemployment

**Course Communication**

* **E-mail:**Contact your instructor via Canvas messages. Use of FIU email should not be used for course-related matters as there is no record of it.
* **Discussion Forum:**It will be used for postings of general interest that are directly related to the course. Everyone can read Discussion Forum postings; therefore, do not post private information.
* **Announcements:**Will be used to indicate news of importance as related to the course.

**Quizzes**

This course will have a syllabus quiz and twelve chapter-quizzes, corresponding to chapters 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12. The syllabus quiz will be available the first week of classes with two attempts and the average of both will be kept. The twelve chapter-quizzes will have a time limit of 30 minutes for 10 questions, with up to 2 attempts and the highest of both will be kept. Students will be able to see their score upon completion.

**Problems/Exercises**

There will be problems/exercises corresponding to each chapter to be done voluntarily individually or in teams, and submitted by each student for grading, if a grade is to be received.

**News relevant to topics discussed in class**

News relevant to the topics considered in class that you will select from the [FIU Library (Links to an external site.)](https://library.fiu.edu/?b=g&d=a). Students will be required to submit one relevant news per Unit, as indicated in the Calendar of Events.

**Grading**

| **Course Grades Distribution Table** |
| --- |
| **Required Graded Assignments** | **Number of Items** | **Point Value** | **Maximum Usable Points** |
| **Introduce Yourself to the Classmates** | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| **Introduce Yourself to the Instructor** | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| **Syllabus Quiz** | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Quizzes (Chapters 1-12) | 12 | 10 | 120 |
| Review of news related to topics discussed in class (one per chapter) | 12 |  2 | 24 |
| Discussion Questions or exercises, one per chapter | 12 | 4 | 48 |
| **Total** | 39 | **N/A** | **200** |

| **Letter Grade Distribution Table** |
| --- |
| **Letter** | **Points** | **Letter** | **Points** | **Letter** | **Points** |
| A | 200-190 | B | 173-166 | C | 153-140 |
| A- | 189-180 | B- | 165-160 | D | 139-120 |
| B+ | 179-174 | C+ | 159-154 | F | < 119 |

**The Meaning of Letter Grades**

* "A" is given only for excellent work.
* "B" is awarded for good work.
* "C" is fair or satisfactory work.
* "D" is given for poor work.
* "F" is unsatisfactory or failing.