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# EC 215

## Labor Economics

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Fall 2017  
T,TH 9:30 – 10:50 AM  
JRC 209

Instructor: Logan Lee  
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Phone: (641)269-4015

Office: HHH 104

Office Hours: Monday: 11:00-12:00 AM  
Tuesday: 11:00-12:00 AM  
Wednesday: 1:00-2:00 PM  
Thursday: 4:00-5:00 PM  
and by appointment

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### Overview

This course is designed to provide you with an introduction to labor markets. The first half of the course covers prominent theories of labor economics including labor supply, labor demand, human capital, and wages. The remaining lectures cover specific issues such as unemployment, discrimination, immigration, unions, and the role of the government.

### Required Text Book

Derek Laing  
*Labor Economics*  
W. W. Norton, 2011  
ISBN: 978-0-393-97957-7

Additional readings may be placed on reserve in the library or posted to PWeb

### Evaluation

Grades in this class will be based on homework assignments and three exams. In addition, you are expected to actively participate in class. I reserve the right to give additional short in class quizzes that will be counted towards your participation points. Grades will be weighted as follows:

- 10% - Class Participation
- 20% - Homework Assignments
- 20% - Exam #1
- 20% - Exam #2
- 30% - Final Exam

### Time Expectations

Students should expect to spend 2-3 hours outside of class for each hour of class time.

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### Important Dates

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**October 10<sup>th</sup>**

Exam #1

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**October 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>**

Fall Break

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**November 14<sup>th</sup>**

Exam #2

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**December 14<sup>th</sup> (2:00-5:00)**

Final Exam

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## Problem Sets

Problem sets are due at the beginning of class on their listed due date. No late assignments will be accepted. You must turn in a physical copy of each problem set in order to receive credit, e-mail delivery of assignments will not be accepted. Working with others on homework assignments is encouraged. The worst score from the homework assignments and quizzes will be automatically dropped. This is done to accommodate any unforeseen absences, no additional considerations will be given.

## Exams

There will be two midterms and one final in this class. Each exam will be comprised of short answer questions. Students are responsible for all material covered in class and in the assigned readings. Students unable to take one of the midterms must provide proper documentation to the instructor prior to the exam. In the case of a missed midterm due to unanticipated emergency situations, the student will be allowed to put the weight of the missed exam on the other exam, provided notification is received as soon as possible and there is verification of the emergency.

## Testing Procedures

The same procedure will apply during all exams. You will be allowed one non-programmable calculator and a writing implement. Minor items such as drinks and pencil cases are also allowed. Nothing else will be allowed on your desk during the exams. Please close your backpacks for the duration of the exam.

## Students with Disabilities

I encourage students with documented disabilities, including invisible disabilities such as chronic illness, learning disabilities, and psychiatric disabilities, to discuss appropriate accommodations with me. You will also need to have a conversation about and provide documentation of your disability to the Coordinator for Student Disability Resources, John Hirschman, located on the 3rd floor of the Rosenfield Center (x3089).

## Academic Honesty

Grinnell College's Academic Honesty Policy is located in the Student Handbook available online at: <http://catalog.grinnell.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=2537>. It is the College's expectation that students be aware of and meet the expectations expressed in this policy. In addition, in this course it is my expectation that students may collaborate on homework assignments and but each student needs to individually hand in each assignment. If you have questions about what level of collaboration is acceptable on a particular assignment or about how a particular assignment relates to the College's policy, I am happy to discuss the assignment with you in advance of the assignment's due date.

## Religious Holidays

I encourage students who plan to observe holy days that coincide with class meetings or assignment due dates to consult with me in the first three weeks of classes so that we may reach a mutual understanding of how you can meet the terms of your religious observance and also the requirements for this course.

## Tentative Schedule

Below is a schedule of topics and readings that we will cover in lecture. This schedule is subject to change given the pace of the class. All changes will be announced in class and posted on blackboard. Note that some of the topics will be based solely on lecture notes or other assigned readings not found in your textbook.

Dates	Topic	Readings
August 24	Syllabus and Introduction	None
August 29–31	Economic Modelling and The U.S. Labor Market	Chapters 1 (skip 1.3 and 1.4) and 2, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Reports
September 5-7	Labor Demand	Chapter 3
September 12-14	Labor Supply	Chapter 4
September 19-21	Human Capital and Human Capital Acquisition	Chapters 5 and 6
September 26-28	Competitive Equilibrium	Chapter 7
October 3-5	Competitive Equilibrium	None
October 10-12	Policy Applications: Minimum Wage Exam #1 on Tuesday	Chapter 8, “Minimum Wage Increases, Wages, and Low-Wage Employment: Evidence From Seattle”
October 17-19	Fall Break	None
October 24-26	The Role of Government in the Labor Market	Textbook Chapters Posted on Pweb
October 31 – November 2	Incentives and Executive Compensation	Chapter 14 + “The Upside of Irrationality” Chapter 3
November 7-9	Labor Market Discrimination	Chapters 11 (skip 11.3) and 12 (skip 12.2 and 12.3), Academic Papers Posted on Pweb
November 14	Exam #2	None
November 21	Immigration	Chapter 21
November 28-30	Unemployment	Chapters 22 and 23
December 5-7	Unions	Chapter 18