

**Economics 270 — Labor Economics  
Fall 2015**

**1. Instructor**

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Office hours: Tuesdays 8:00-8:30 PM and Thursdays 5:15-6:00 PM in Dewing 302.

**2. Course Description**

The aim of this course is to provide an understanding of how labor markets function. The topics include labor supply and labor demand, wage determination, human capital and education, unemployment, discrimination, and labor mobility. By the end of the course, students should be able to understand the theoretical concepts and basic empirical tools used to analyze labor markets and related public policy issues.

**3. Course Materials**

- George J. Borjas, *Labor Economics*, McGraw-Hill, latest edition

**4. Course Outline**

Introduction — Labor Economics and Labor Statistics

Labor Supply — Labor Force Participation and Hours of Work

Policy Issues in Labor Supply

Labor Demand

Labor Market Equilibrium

Education and Human Capital

Discrimination in Labor Markets

Wages and Compensation Schemes

Labor Mobility and Migration

## 5. Course Requirements and Grading

Reading assignments: About 40 pages of reading per week

Grading: Your course grade will be based on your performance on the following:

- Scheduled in-class quizzes (30%)  
The quizzes cannot be made—your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped automatically in calculating your grade.
- Group presentation and group paper on assigned topics (20%)  
Between weeks 5 and 8, I will schedule group presentations. You will be asked to turn in your presentation a week before your presentation. Because this is a group project, it will be graded as a pass or fail.
- Two exams—a mid-term exam (20%), and a final exam (30%)

The Kalamazoo College Honor System covers all aspects of this course. Any student who needs an accommodation or other assistance in this course should speak with me.