

Professor Kevin Neuman
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Office hours: Monday 11-1, Tuesday 12-2, Wednesday 1-3, or by appointment.

Class Meetings: MW from 9:35 to 10:50 in CCC 214. There is an attendance policy discussed below and attendance is strongly encouraged. In my experience it is difficult to do well in the course without regular attendance as much of the material comes out in class discussions and may not be included in the text. You are responsible for all material covered in class so if you are absent, make sure to copy the notes from someone. If you have any questions *after looking over the notes and doing the required readings* come see me during office hours.

Course Description and Objectives: This course introduces the basic ideas of labor economics. The first section of the course develops the theory of labor supply and related public policies. The second section develops the theory of labor demand and addresses wage and employment determination in various labor markets. The third section examines labor market issues such as unemployment, human capital, and discrimination. After the course you should understand the models and issues of labor economics and be able to apply the models to analyze the effects of basic labor market public policies.

Required text and readings: McConnell, Campbell R., Stanley L. Brue, and David A. Macpherson. *Contemporary Labor Economics*. 11th Ed. McGraw-Hill: 2017.

Additional readings will be provided throughout the semester.

Course Requirements: The course grade will be determined as follows:

Exam 1:	Oct. 10	20%	=	80 pts
Exam 2:	Nov. 14	20%	=	80 pts
Exam 3:	Friday, Dec. 16, 12:30-2:30	20%	=	80 pts
Assignments:	Due Oct. 17, Nov. 21, & Dec. 14	25%	=	100 pts
Participation:		<u>15%</u>	=	<u>60 pts</u>
		100%	=	400 pts

There will be three exams which combined make up 60% of the final grade. Makeup exams will not be offered without a university sanctioned excuse (university athletics, field trip, etc.). Approval for a makeup must be obtained before the date of the exam and should not be taken as given. In addition, there will be three assignments worth a combined 25% of the final grade. Late assignments will not be accepted. Details of the assignments will be discussed at a later date. The final 15% of your grade is based on participation in class activities. There will be 10 discussions throughout the course, contributing 40 points to your final grade. The remaining 20 points will be based on participation in class discussions and activities.

The attendance policy allows four unexcused absences without reducing your grade. On the fifth unexcused absence your final grade will be reduced by 2 percentage points (8 points). For each unexcused absence after the fifth your final grade will be reduced by 0.5 percentage points (2 points). University sanctioned absences will not count against this total and should be cleared prior to missing class. This policy does not allow missing exams and if you are absent the day an assignment is due your assignment should be handed in by someone else, or should be turned in at my office by the time I get back from the scheduled class meeting. Telling me why you were absent will not make the absence excused. Attendance will be taken each day by a signup sheet. It is your responsibility to make sure you sign the sheet. Signing up another individual who is not present will result in an absence for both of you. Coming to class solely to sign the sheet and then leaving will be counted as an absence. If you arrive at class excessively late, or repeatedly late, I reserve the right to assign an absence at my discretion.

Grading Scale: Letter grades are determined as follows:

A:	grade \geq 93%	C:	77% > grade \geq 73%
A-:	93% > grade \geq 90%	C-:	73% > grade \geq 70%
B+:	90% > grade \geq 87%	D+:	70% > grade \geq 67%
B:	87% > grade \geq 83%	D:	67% > grade \geq 63%
B-:	83% > grade \geq 80%	D-:	63% > grade \geq 60%
C+:	80% > grade \geq 77%	F:	60% > grade

This schedule may be adjusted during the course of the class but only in favor of the students as a group.

Any suspected academic misconduct on an exam, paper, or assignment will be dealt with under the appropriate University procedures.

Students with Disabilities: Students with learning or other disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services during the first two weeks of the semester if they wish to request accommodation.

Religious Beliefs: Religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03 as long as the student notifies me of the specific days or dates within the first three weeks of the beginning of classes.

General Information: I understand that things happen that prevent people from getting to class on time, myself included. As such, occasional late entrances are not a problem, and I would rather have you attend class than not. However, repeated instances of late arrival will be a problem. Arriving late is disrupting not only to me, but to the rest of the class. When quizzes or exams are given late arrivals will not be given extra time. I also understand that people occasionally forget to turn off their cell phones before coming to class. Again, occasional instances are not a problem but do your best to turn off your phone before entering class. However, sitting in class text messaging your friends will not be tolerated.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: UWS/UWSP Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures: <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf#page=11>.

ECON 345 – 1 detailed course outline

Week 1: Sept. 7

Introduction

Readings: C1

Week 2: Sept. 12 & 14

(D1) Labor supply

Readings: C2

Week 3: Sept. 19 & 21

(D2) Labor supply (cont.); Labor force participation

Readings: C2, C3(59-84)

Week 4: Sept. 26 & 28

(D3) Labor supply issues

Readings: C2

Week 5: Oct. 3 & 5

(D4) Labor supply issues (cont.); LFP and government programs

Readings: C2

Week 6: Oct. 10 & 12

Exam #1; Short-run labor demand

Readings: C5

Week 7: Oct. 17 & 19

(A#1 Due) Short-run labor demand (cont.)

Readings: C5

Week 8: Oct. 24 & 26

(D5) Short-run labor demand (cont.); Long-run labor demand

Readings: C5

Week 9: Oct. 31 & Nov. 2

(D6) Long-run labor demand (cont.); Elasticity and labor demand

Readings: C5

Week 10: Nov. 7 & 9

(D7) Human capital & training

Readings: C4

Week 11: Nov. 14 & 16

Exam #2; Perfect comp. & Eq.; Wage differentials

Readings: C6(173-186), C8

Week 12: Nov. 21 & 23

(A#2 Due) Wage differentials (cont.); Monopsony; Unemployment

Readings: C8, C6(186-190), C18

Week 13: Nov. 28 & 30

(D8) Unemployment

Readings: C18, C15(463-471), C7(222-227)

Week 14: Dec. 5 & 7

(D9) Minimum wage in PC and Monopsony; Bilateral Monopoly; Discrimination

Readings: C13(398-406), C14

Week 15: Dec. 12 & 14

(D10) Discrimination (cont.) **(A#3 Due)**

Readings: C14

Friday, Dec. 16, 12:30-2:30 Exam #3