

**Syllabus for ECP 3930**  
**Special Topics: Labor Economics**  
**CRN 11102**  
**(3 Credit Hours)**



Department of Economics and Finance  
Spring 2020

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Amelia Biehl, Assistant Professor of Economics
<b>Lectures:</b>	9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Griffin Hall 215
<b>Office:</b>	Lutgers Hall 2303
<b>Phone:</b>	(239) 590-7420
<b>E-Mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:abiehl@fgcu.edu">abiehl@fgcu.edu</a> (Please contact me via Canvas.)
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays: 11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. and by appointment

**Required Text and Materials**

The required materials for the course:

1. *Modern Labor Economics*. 11<sup>th</sup> Edition (2009) by Ehrenberg & Smith  
ISBN-13: 9780132540643
2. A simple (non-graphing) calculator
3. 3 scantrons : "Pearson NCS Test Sheets 100/100, Form No. 95679"
4. Note Outlines: You must also have access to Canvas and print the necessary note outlines for each class.

**Prerequisites:** ECO 2013 and ECO 2023

**Course Description**

Upon completion of this course, you will understand labor demand and labor supply, including the decision to work, household production, and the lifecycle. You will also be able to demonstrate comprehension of economic theories of compensating wage differentials, investments in human capital, and pay and productivity.

**Course Objectives**

Course Objectives	Assessment
Students will understand and be able to explain labor demand.	Exam
Students will understand and be able to explain labor supply.	Exam
Students will understand and be able to explain compensating wage differentials.	Exam

## Success Strategies

**Be Prepared:** Students are expected to read assigned material prior to class, print the assigned note outlines, and participate in class discussion and activities. Being prepared also means going through the notes from one class period before coming to the next class period. If you look at the new material at least once within forty-eight hours of first seeing it, you will learn the material more thoroughly and studying for the exam will be easier.

**Attend Class:** I will not take roll, however, consistent attendance is essential for acceptable performance in the course. Many students find economic concepts difficult to grasp. Missing class will only make the process of absorbing this material more difficult. I will also present material in class that may not be found in the text. If you miss class and the absence is unexcused, do not come to my office for the notes you missed. It is your responsibility to get the material from another source (your friends, the book, etc.). However, if your absence is excused, I will be happy to go over any missed material with you.

**Participate:** Do not be afraid to participate, and if you have a question, never let it go unanswered. If you do not get an opportunity to ask your question during class, stop by during my office hours or feel free to contact me via email.

**Communicate:** If you find yourself falling behind or you are having problems with the material, I encourage you to come to me for assistance. My posted office hours list the times that you are guaranteed to find me in my office. However, if you have a conflict, you may arrange a meeting time outside of office hours. When you email, please write professionally and use complete sentences.

## Professionalism & Courteousness

Part of what we do at the LCOB is prepare students to be productive members of the business community. As such, students are expected to behave professionally and be courteous. The following is a list of professional behaviors. Please note that the list is not exhaustive, and other professional behaviors may be added during the course.

1. **Timeliness:** If you do plan to attend class, be on time and do not leave until class is dismissed. Late arrivals and early departures are very disruptive to your fellow students and to me!! If you have a long walk to get to this class from another, let me know in advance. If nature calls so loudly that you must answer (and it should not regularly in a 50 minute class), please leave and return to the classroom as quietly as possible. Students who have difficulty complying with the timeliness expectation will lose points in the course.
2. **Conversations:** Please avoid carrying on private conversations during class. This behavior shows disrespect for your classmates who would like to hear the lecture and it can have a negative impact on the learning experience of the entire class. Students carrying on private conversations during class may be asked to leave not allowed to make-up any assignments missed during that class period.
3. **No Electronics:** Students are not permitted to use electronic devices in class. It is very disruptive to your peers and to me. Also, research shows that students learn better when notes are hand-written. Students using electronic devices in class may be asked to leave and not allowed to make-up any assignments missed during that class period.

## Evaluation Criteria

Your final grade for the course is based on the distribution below. Four hundred points are possible and your grade in the course will be the number of points you receive divided by four hundred. Your grade will then be determined on the following scale. A: 93% to 100%, A-: 90%-92%, B+: 87%-89%, B: 83%-86%, B-: 80%-82%, C+: 77%-79%, C: 73%-76%, C-: 70%-72%, D+: 67%-69%, D: 63%-66%, D-: 60%-62%, F: 59% and below. Grading in the course will be based upon 15 quizzes worth 5 points each, a presentation, two mid-semester exams and a final exam. Exam questions will reflect information and ideas presented both in lecture and the assigned readings. **FINAL GRADES FOR THIS COURSE ARE FINAL.** No extra credit or additional assignments are available at the end of the course.

Task	Points
Assignments	75
Presentation	25
Exam I	100
Exam II	100
Final Exam	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>400*</b>

*\*Grades may be decreased for students who are not being professional or not being courteous. This is in an effort help students understand how to behave professionally in the real world as well as to minimize distractions and increase learning for all students.*

## Assignments

One of my goals for the semester is to encourage preparedness and attendance, and the assignments are designed to facilitate this goal. There will be 18 assignments worth 5 points each. Of these 18 total assignments, only the 15 highest scores will count. Assignments may cover the previous class lecture, the reading assignment for the day, something we have just completed discussing in class, or questions from practice assignments. Some assignments will be announced while others will come to you as a surprise. Most assignments will be due during class. However, *some* will be take-home assignments, which will be due the following class period (**by 9:00 a.m.**).

- **Late assignments cannot be accepted.**
- Since three assignment grades may be dropped, **I do not give “make-up” assignments**, unless a student misses more than three assignments and has excused absences for each assignment missed over three. In the case of an excused absence over three, you must email me documentation of the excused absence at least one day **BEFORE** it occurs in order to be allowed a make-up assignment. In emergency situations, email me right away (as soon as physically possible).
- Some assignments will be graded line by line, while on others you will either receive credit (5 points) or no credit (0 points). Anyone feeling that a dispute exists after the grading of an assignment may submit a written grievance. This grievance should identify the item in dispute and arguments supporting the student's position. The appeal must be submitted within one week after the assignment score has been posted on Canvas.

## Practice Questions

In addition to required assignments, I encourage you to complete optional practice problems in the margins of each chapter. Completing practice questions is a vital means to assist you in learning the material. Students may work together on practice assignments and I encourage you to do so.

## Presentation

For the presentation, you should summarize an article from the *Journal of Labor Economics*. A rubric will be posted on Canvas.

## Exams

There will be three mid-semester exams and a cumulative final exam. For each exam, you will need a scantron, pencil and simple (non-graphing) calculator. The dates for the exams are shown in the schedule below. Note that this schedule is subject to change without notice.

Exam Schedule	
Exam 1	Thursday, February 6
Exam 2	Thursday, March 19
Final Exam	Thursday, April 30 (7:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.)

## Exam Policies

- Cell phones, laptops, and other technological devices may not be used as calculators and must be turned off and put away prior to the beginning of the exam.
- If a student is seen with a cell phone out once exams have been distributed, he or she will automatically receive a zero (0) grade on that exam.
- You may not leave and reenter the classroom during an exam (except in the case of an emergency). Please make sure to use the restroom before the exam starts.
- Hats and headphones are not permitted during exams.
- Do not arrive late to an exam. If you enter the classroom after the first student completes the exam and leaves the room, you cannot take the test and will receive a zero.
- **You CANNOT miss the final exam.**
- If you plan to utilize adaptive services you must bring the forms to my office to be signed well in advance of exams.
- Graded exam scores will be posted on Canvas. Anyone feeling that a dispute exists after the grading of an exam may submit a written grievance. This grievance should identify the item in dispute and arguments supporting the student's position. The appeal must be submitted within one week after the exam score has been posted on Canvas. The instructor agrees to return a written response to the student's grievance within one week of receipt of the grievance.

## Missed Exams

- If you miss a mid-semester exam due to an unexcused absence, you will receive a **zero** on that exam. A student who misses a mid-semester exam due to an **excused absence** will be allowed to count the cumulative final exam score for both the missed exam and the final exam. **IF YOU MISS AN EXAM FOR AN UNFORESEEN REASON YOU SHOULD CONTACT ME AS SOON AS YOU ARE PHYSICALLY ABLE TO EMAIL ME.**

## Excused Absences

- Excused absences include serious illness requiring immediate medical attention (a doctor's note excusing you from class must accompany this excuse ASAP), death of an immediate family member (with documentation), university sponsored trip (with documentation from the organizer indicating that the trip is mandatory PRIOR to the missed exam/assignment), or a religious holiday (with documentation PRIOR to the missed exam/assignment). Parents scheduling a vacation is NOT an excused absence. You will NOT be permitted to take a make-up exam/assignment if you are absent for this reason.

## **Tentative Course Outline and Readings**

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Overview of the Labor Market

Chapter 3: The Demand for Labor

Chapter 6: Supply of Labor to the Economy: The Decision to Work

Chapter 7: Labor Supply: Household Production, the Family, and the Life Cycle

Chapter 8: Compensating Wage Differentials and Labor Markets

Chapter 9: Investments in Human Capital: Education and Training

Chapter 11: Pay and Productivity: Wage Determination within the Firm

Chapter 12: Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in the Labor Market

Chapter 13: Unions and the Labor Market

Chapter 14: Unemployment

Chapter 15: Inequality in Earnings

## **University Statements**

### **1. Academic Behavior Standards and Academic Dishonesty**

All students are expected to demonstrate honesty in their academic pursuits. The university policies regarding issues of honesty can be found in the FGCU Student Guidebook under the **Student Code of Conduct and Policies and Procedures** sections. All students are expected to study this document which outlines their responsibilities and consequences for violations of the policy. The FGCU Student Guidebook is available online at <http://studentservices.fgcu.edu/judicialaffairs/new.html>

### **2. University Nondiscrimination Statement**

Florida Gulf Coast University is committed to ensuring equity and fairness for all University employees, students, visitors, vendors, contractors and other third parties. As such, the University prohibits discrimination on the bases of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, sex (including sexual harassment/assault), gender identity/expression, marital status, sexual orientation, veteran status or genetic predisposition with regard to admissions, employment, programs or other activities operated by the University. This prohibition extends to enforcement of **Title IX** of the Education Amendments of 1972. Questions or complaints should be directed to the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC). The OIEC's phone number is (239)745-4366; the OIEC email address is [OIEC@fgcu.edu](mailto:OIEC@fgcu.edu).

### **3. Disability Accommodations Service**

Florida Gulf Coast University, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the university's guiding principles, will provide classroom and academic accommodations to students with documented disabilities. If you need to request an accommodation in this class due to a disability, or you suspect that your academic performance is affected by a disability, please see me or contact the Office of Adaptive Services. The Office of Adaptive Services is located in the Wellness Building. The phone number is 239-590-7956 or Video Phone (VP) 239-243-9453. In addition to classroom and campus accommodations, individuals with disabilities are encouraged to create their personal emergency evacuation plan and FGCU is committed to providing information on emergency notification procedures. You can find information on the emergency exits and Areas of Rescue Assistance for each building, as well as other emergency preparedness materials on the Environmental Health and Safety and University Police Department websites. If you will need assistance in the event of an emergency due to a disability, please contact Adaptive Services for available services and information.

### **4. Student Observance of Religious Holidays**

All students at Florida Gulf Coast University have a right to expect that the University will reasonably accommodate their religious observances, practices, and beliefs. Students, upon prior notification to their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances. Where practicable, major examinations, major assignments, and University ceremonies will not be scheduled on a major religious holy day. A student who is to be excused from class for a religious observance is not required to provide a second party certification of the reason for the absence.

### **5. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides free counseling and therapy services (including psychiatry) to all FGCU students. Please walk in to the second floor Howard Hall office any weekday between 8:30 and 4:30 to schedule an initial contact appointment. Visit the CAPS website at [www.fgcu.edu/caps](http://www.fgcu.edu/caps) for more information. CAPS offers a 24/7 Helpline at (239) 745-3277 (EARS)

## Calendar

Tuesday	Thursday
<b>January 7</b> First Day of ECP3930	<b>9</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>February 4</b> Review for Exam 1	<b>6</b> Exam 1
<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>March 3</b> Spring Break – NO CLASSES	<b>5</b> Spring Break – NO CLASSES
<b>10</b>	<b>12</b> Presentation Article Due
<b>17</b> Review for Exam 2	<b>19</b> Exam 2
<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>April 2</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>16</b> Presentations
<b>21</b> Presentations	<b>23</b> Finish Presentations & Review for the Final Exam
<b>28</b> NO ECP3930 Class	<b>30</b> Final Exam (7:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.)

