

Texts: McConnell, Brue, and Macpherson : *Contemporary Labor Economics* , 7th Edition

Class Web Page: <http://www.economicissues.net/labor/labor.html>

Objective: Learn to think in a manner consistent with the existence of scarcity, with special emphasis on the supply and demand of labor, unemployment, and how labor market participants adapt, adjust, and alter their behavior in response to changes in expected benefits and costs.

Office Hours: You are encouraged to ask questions during and after class. If you want to speak with me at length or need assistance, I am usually available in my office, Comenius Hall 207, from 2:00 – 4:30 Mondays and Wednesdays, and by appointment. Set up an appointment by calling (625.7101) or emailing (preferred) me. I will work around your schedule.

Celebrations of Learning, Pre-Parties / Home Excitements, Exposition, and Blogging.: There will be three in-term Celebrations of Learning and one Ultimate Exposition and Report, which will account for 70% of your grade. The weights are as follows:

<u>THE MOST EXCELLENT CLASS ACTIVITIES</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>
In Class Pre-Parties / Home Excitements	10%
Blogging	20%
First Celebration of Learning	15%
Second Celebration of Learning	20%
Third Celebration of Learning	20%
Ultimate Exposition and Report	15%

Celebrations of Learning: There will be three in-term Celebrations of Learning. These Celebrations will consist of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions. All Celebrations will be cumulative and comprehensive, with emphasis placed on the material presented after the previous Celebration. **No make-ups for the in-term Celebrations will be given.** If you miss one in-term Celebration, its weight will automatically shift to the other Celebrations, at no penalty to you. **No Celebration of Learning grades will be dropped.** If you choose to participate in a Celebration of Learning, the grade you receive will become part of your average for the class. If you miss more than one in-term Celebration, I reserve the right to either give you a zero on one or both missed Celebrations, or require additional work from you.

In Class Pre-Parties/ Home Excitements: represent 10% of your grade. These assignments will consist of essay and short answer questions that reinforce the topics discussed in class. **Absolutely NO late Home Excitements will be accepted.**

Blogging: (BL) One written component of this class will consist of weblogging (blogging). A blog for this class has been set up at www.economicissues.net/labor/labor.html. You will be e-mailed an invitation containing a link to a webpage. Copy this link into your browser, click enter, and follow the directions. You may choose to write and comment under a pseudonym. *Note that an invitation only works once; if you goof it up, I will have to send you another. Please don't be embarrassed to ask.*

Blogging is an interactive and hopefully entertaining process between writers and readers. Readers, including me, may not agree with the opinions you express, and are free to tell you so. I attempt to stick to assertions, facts, and conclusions that are within the mainstream of economics. Please try not to be offended by any blog comments I or others may make, but please **do** inform me if you are offended.

Blog Grading: The grading system for blogging is unusual. The total number of blogging points you can accumulate is 100. Each student is required to create three (3) 200 words or more posts. Your post will link to an online article and analyze the merits of the piece. Each post is worth 25 points of your blogging grade. Each student will be given a topic and due date for the blogging assignments. You will receive more information the second week of class. Each comment, where you critique someone else's post, is worth 5 points. These can be performed at anytime during the semester. In addition, I may subtract points for errors in analysis, spelling, grammar, or style. In order to get 100 points on the blogging portion of your grade, you must flawlessly compose your three posts and make 5 comments during the semester.

Ultimate Exposition and Report: You will develop an executive report (5 pages) and give presentations the last 2 days of class. Expositions will discuss a current labor issue. You will introduce the issue, define the important points, and present an analysis of the topic as a policy maker. The exposition grade will be based on the report, the clarity of the class presentation, and the presenter’s ability to answer questions from the class. You may choose any topic; however, it must first be approved by me.

Grading: Academic regulations and procedures as found in the *Moravian Catalog* govern all grading and academic policies. Because each class and assignment is unique, the grading scale may vary. This is a rough idea of the scale you can expect:

85 - 100 = A 70 – 84 = B 55 – 69 = C 45 – 54 = D < 45 = F

The actual grading scale will be determined only at the end of the semester.

Grade Appeals: Any course grade dispute must be initiated in accordance with College and Department policies.

Attendance: If I plan to give a worthless lecture, I will cancel class. Attendance is not required, though highly recommended. If you are consistently absent from class without sufficient reason, you sacrifice your office hours privileges. Initially, I will take role as an inexpensive way to learn your names. If I am late, please wait 10 minutes before leaving the classroom. Please switch all phones and pagers to vibrate. If you are late, minimize your disturbance.

Students with Disabilities: As a Faculty member at Moravian College I will make every reasonable effort to accommodate the unique and special needs of students with respect to speech, hearing, vision, seating, or other possible disabilities. During the first week of class please contact me if you require special accommodations and I, along with representatives from the Counseling Center, will work with you.

Academic Integrity: Academic dishonesty will be treated per the stated regulations in the *Moravian Student Handbook*. All work must be your own or the groups own as it pertains to Home Excitements done by a group. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are not in conflict with the stated regulations.

I reserve the right to make adjustments to the syllabus at any time during the course.

Week	Readings	Topics
16-Jan	2	Labor Supply
23-Jan	3	Population, Participation Rates, and Hours of Work
30-Jan	4	Investing In Human Capital
6-Feb	2-4	Celebration of Learning #1
	5	Demand for Labor
13-Feb	5,6	Demand for Labor (con't); Wage Determination
20-Feb	7,8	Pay Schemes and Wage Structure
27-Feb	7,8	Pay Schemes and Wage Structure
3-Mar	2-8	Celebration of Learning #2
6-Mar		Spring Break
13-Mar	10	Labor Unions and Collective Bargaining
20-Mar	11	Economics Impact of Unions
27-Mar	12, 13	Government and the Labor Market
3-Apr	All To Date	Celebration of Learning #3
	14	Labor Market Discrimination
10-Apr	16	Distribution of Earnings
17-Apr	17, 18	Labor Productivity; Employment and Unemployment
24-Apr		Ultimate Expositions
TBA	All to date	Ultimate Reports Due