

**Course Syllabus: Spring 2010**

*The syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*

Office Hours: 1:15 – 2:15 p.m., MW and by appointment, Brooks 504

Class Hours: 10:10 – 11:00 a.m., MWF, MLC 207

Assessments: (2) Tests – 50%: February 12 and April 2  
Final Exam – 50%: May 5, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Textbook: Borjas, Labor Economics, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2010)

Course Objectives: You will learn to apply microeconomic theory to the study of individual behavior and government policies affecting the operation of the labor market.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Borjas, Ch. 1

Jan. 8: The Economic Approach to Human Behavior

**II. THE SUPPLY OF LABOR**

A. Static

Borjas, Ch. 2 (pp. 21 – 64)

Jan. 15: Lottery Winners and Labor Supply

**Jan. 18: No Class – MLK Day**

B. Dynamic

Borjas, Ch. 2 (pp. 64 – 77)

Jan. 22: The Intertemporal Labor Supply of Stadium Vendors

### **III. THE DEMAND FOR LABOR**

Borjas, Ch. 3; Ch. 4 (pp. 163 – 196)

Jan. 30: Affirmative Action

Feb. 6: The Minimum Wage and Poverty

**Feb. 12: Test #1**

### **IV. LABOR MARKET EQUILIBRIUM**

A. Static

Borjas, Ch. 7

Feb. 19: Corporal Punishment in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Factories

Feb. 26: The Value of Saving a Life

B. Dynamic

Borjas, Ch. 1 (pp. 5 – 7); Ch. 8

### **V. HUMAN CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

Borjas, Ch. 6

Mar. 5: The 1968 French Student Riots and the Return to Higher Education

**Mar. 8 - 12: No Class – Spring Break**

### **VI. DISCRIMINATION**

Borjas, Ch. 9

Mar. 19: Customer Discrimination in the NBA

### **VII. UNIONS**

Borjas, Ch.10

Mar. 26: Globalization, Technological Change, and Unionization

**Apr. 2: Test #2**

## VIII. THE STRUCTURE OF COMPENSATION

Borjas, Ch. 11 (pp. 463 – 479)

Apr. 9: Incentive Pay in the Auto Glass Installation Industry

Apr. 16: The Compensation Structure of Gangs

## IX. UNEMPLOYMENT

Borjas, Ch. 12 (omit sec. 12-8)

Apr. 23: Labor-Market Flows and Unemployment

Apr. 29: Last Day of Class

May 5: Final Exam, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

## COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: “Students are expected to attend classes regularly. A student who incurs an excessive number of absences may be withdrawn from a class at the discretion of the professor.” (<http://www.bulletin.uga.edu/bulletin/ind/attendance.html>). Attendance may be taken randomly throughout the semester. Unexcused absences on more than three of these occasions will be deemed “excessive” for the purpose of this policy.

Examinations: Students are expected to take the tests and final exam at the scheduled times listed above. No make-up tests will be administered. If you are absent from a test, the weight of that test will be added to the weight of the final exam in determining your course grade. An unexcused absence from the final exam will result in a score of zero on that exam. There are two valid excuses for an absence from the final exam: (1) the Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs verifies that you have another exam scheduled for the same time or you have three exams scheduled for the same calendar day, in which case you must petition in advance to take the exam at another time (<http://www.curriculumsystems.uga.edu>); (2) the Office of the Vice-President for Student Affairs verifies that you have a family emergency or personal illness, in which case you must arrange as soon as possible after the scheduled exam date to take the exam at another time.

Academic Honesty: As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University’s academic honesty policy, “A Culture of Honesty,” and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in “A Culture of Honesty,” found at [www.uga.edu/honesty](http://www.uga.edu/honesty). Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.