INSTRUCTOR
Dr. Michelle W. Trawick   GH 423   745.8803   michelle.trawick@wku.edu

OFFICE HOURS
TR 9:30 - 10:30
T 2:30-4:45
R 2:30-3:30
and by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTS

REQUIRED MATERIAL
• 3 Scantron sheets (available at WKU bookstore and the Economics Department office: GH 401 or 432)  
• Access to an internet connection.
• email

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES
*Description*– Study of modern labor theory and labor market behavior; public policy and implications of policy with topics such as migration, health, wage determination, education, unions, and discrimination. (WKU Undergraduate Catalog Issue 2003-2005)

*Objectives*– Students should leave the class with an understanding of the following: how many hours of labor a person is willing to supply, how many workers a company should employ, how equilibrium wage rates and levels of employment are determined, how education/training affects wages, how benefits impact wages, the impact of discrimination on wages.

ATTENDANCE/GRADING/CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR
Students are expected to attend class regularly and be prepared for class discussions. There will be no explicit score for attendance or class participation. However, it has been my experience that students who attend class and participate in class discussions perform better in their courses.

The final grade for this course will consist of quizzes, homework, and three exams. Your evaluation will depend upon your ability to answer analytical and conceptual problems. All exams consist of multiple choice and short answer questions.

Grades are assigned using the traditional 10-point scale with rounding up at 0.5. For example, someone with an 89.5 has earned an “A” and someone with a 59.5 has earned a “D.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Tentative Date</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HW&amp;QZ</td>
<td>Various Dates</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>Tuesday, February 21</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>Thursday, April 6</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 9 @ 8:00 am</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The dates for Exam 1 and Exam 2 are tentative. Students will be informed well in advance if there is a change to the schedule.

In-class writing assignments or quizzes, which may or may not be announced, will be given throughout the semester. There will be no make-up grades on a missed writing assignment or quiz for any reason. If you are absent, you will be assigned a zero for that assignment. I will, however, drop your lowest in-class writing assignment or quiz score. Again, your attendance is very important.

There will be no make-up exams given. If a timely and reasonable excuse is provided by you and accepted, you may allow your final exam to count 55% of your score rather than 25%. This would allow you to “make-up” your zero on the exam. In effect, you would have a zero on this exam until you take the third exam. Please keep in mind that your definition of a timely and reasonable excuse may not be my definition of a timely and reasonable excuse.

If you average at least 89.5% on Exam 1 AND Exam 2, you may be exempt from taking the “review” portion of the final. Your average for Exam 1 and Exam 2 would be used INSTEAD of your score on the “review” portion of the final.

Your homework assignments will always be due at the VERY BEGINNING of class on the due date. You will have a 15 minute window. NO LATE HOMEWORK assignment will be accepted.

It is your responsibility to obtain class notes and assignments given during your absence.

Please note: although you do not receive an explicit score for attendance and class participation, I reserve the right to adjust a student’s letter grade either upward or downward, depending on the student’s attendance and class participation.

I expect your behavior in the classroom to be respectful of your fellow students and myself. If you are unable to refrain from sleeping or disturbing the class (e.g., talking), please stay at home. Otherwise, you will be asked to leave. In addition, either turn off your cell phones or set them to silent.

Your demonstration of economic understanding on all graded assignments will be used to determine your final standing in the course. Personal and/or professional issues which may contribute to your performance will not be considered when determining your final score. For example, your need to receive at least a certain grade so that your employer will compensate you for this course is irrelevant when assigning grades.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without a possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case at the Office of the Dean of Student Life for disciplinary sanctions. A student who believes a faculty member has dealt unfairly with him/her in a course involving academic dishonesty may seek relief through the Student Complaint Procedure. (WKU Catalog Issue 2003-2005)

INTERNET ASSIGNMENTS
Students may be asked to conduct some labor market research on the internet. These fact-finding tours may be for your own general knowledge, homework assignments, or class presentations.

POWERPOINT SLIDES
The slides accompanying the text are available on our Blackboard web site.
COURSE CONTENT

I. Introduction to Labor Economics and Review of Market Behavior (Chs 1)

II. The Labor Supply Decision
   a. Hours of Work (Ch 2)
   b. Labor Force Participation (Ch 3)

III. The Labor Demand Decision
   a. The Demand for Labor in the Short Run (Ch. 4)
   b. The Demand for Labor in the Long Run (Ch. 5)

IV. Equilibrium in the Labor Market and Wage Determination
   a. The Determination of Wages (Ch 6)
   b. The Theory of Human Capital (Ch 7)
   c. Occupational Wage Differentials (Ch 8)

V. Special Topics
   a. Discrimination in the Labor Market
   a. The Economics of Human Resource Management (Ch. 10)
   b. Unions (Chs. 10 & 11)