Syllabus – Economics of Work and Pay

ECON 4960, Fall 2010
5:15-7:45 Tue, Classroom South, Rm. 103
Barry Hirsch, AYSPS 537, voice: 404-413-0880
Office hours: by appointment
E-mail: bhirsch@gsu.edu
Homepage: http://www2.gsu.edu/bhirsch

Required Text and Readings
For each chapter, the site contains a brief chapter summary, PowerPoint presentation, and images of figures and tables. All readings other than the text will be posted at http://unionstats.gsu.edu/4960. Newspaper and journal articles with * are required. Other articles are optional. Additional required articles may be added during the semester.
Regular reading of the New York Times (www.nytimes.com), Wall Street Journal (www.wsj.com), or other high quality news sources is recommended. Current events will be discussed in class as time allows.

Course Goals
The goal of Economics of Work and Pay is to enable you to use economic analysis and reasoning to understand wage and employment determination in U.S. labor markets. This goal can be achieved through careful reading, class lecture and discussion, the use of critical thinking, study, and writing. The course will expose you to important theoretical and applied topics in such areas as labor demand and supply, human capital (education and training), technological change, globalization, wage differentials, job mobility and migration, discrimination, earnings inequality, unemployment, labor unions, and public policy.
[Prerequisite, ECON 2106]

Grading
Final grades are based on a weighted average of two in-class exams (counting 27 percent each), a comprehensive final exam (36 percent), and class “queries” (10 percent). Regular attendance is necessary for a good grade. Students must complete all work as scheduled. If an emergency requires that an exam be moved to an earlier or later time, you must contact me by e-mail prior to the scheduled exam and receive permission for a new exam time.

Academic Honesty and Special Services:
Students are required to know and abide by the GSU’s Policy on Academic Honesty, which prohibits dishonesty in academic work. You are expected to behave with integrity and not tolerate dishonesty by others. If you require special accommodations for exams, you must provide documentation from GSU Disability Services and make arrangements with me prior to the exam dates.

Exam Schedule
Exam 1 – Tuesday, September 28 (Sections 1-3)
Exam 2 – Tuesday, November 9 (Sections 4-7)
Final Exam – Tuesday, December 7, 5:15-7:45 p.m.
ECON 4960 (Economics of Work and Pay): Course Outline and Reading List

Expected class dates are in brackets. The course syllabus provides a plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. All readings other than the text are posted at http://unionstats.gsu.edu/4960. "*" designates required readings.


*MBM – Chs. 1, 6 (pp. 171-177)

[8/31, 9/7] 2. Labor Supply and Family Economics

*MBM – Chs. 2, 3

[9/14, 9/21] 3. Demand for Labor, Minimum Wages, Benefits, Pay for Performance

*MBM – Chs. 5, 13 (pp. 397-404), 6 (pp. 177-189), 7 (pp. 198-200, 209-220)

[9/28] Exam 1: Tuesday, September 28 (Sections 1-3)


*MBM – Ch. 4
5. Compensating Wage Differentials and Inequality

*MBM – Chs. 8, 16

6. Mobility, Immigration, Job Search, and Internal Labor Markets

*MBM – Chs. 9, 15 (pp. 462-75)

7. Economics of Discrimination and Wage Differentials by Gender, Race, and Ethnicity

*MBM – Ch. 14
*C. Bialik, “Not All Differences in Earnings are Created Equal,” WSJ, 4/10/2010.

8. Economic Analysis of Labor Unions

*MBM – Chs. 13 (pp. 392-97), 10 (pp. 294-311), 11

9. Unemployment

*MBM – Ch. 18

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 7, 5:15-7:45 p.m.