Course: **Economics 6295 Labor Economics and Public Policy**  
Semester: Spring 2017  
Time: Wednesdays 6:10-8:40  
Location: Tompkins 302

**INSTRUCTOR**  
Name: Diana Furchtgott-Roth  
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Office hours: Thursdays from 3:15 to 4:15 and by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course covers major topics in labor economics such as unemployment, unions, immigration, the minimum wage, pensions, worker mobility, and inequality. The course will apply labor economics concepts to the real world. Topics include what causes inequality; whether wages are stagnating; whether women and minorities are underpaid; whether the minimum wage should be raised; what are appropriate levels of immigration; and how to reduce unemployment. Students will write two short papers (about 5 pages) and take a final exam. They will learn how to make polished presentations of the material to other students.

**PREREQUISITES**

All students should have taken intermediate microeconomics and at least one semester of calculus at the undergraduate level.

**TEXTBOOK**

Kenneth McLaughlin, *Labor Economics: Principles In Practice*, Oxford University Press, 2016. In addition, students will read and discuss the labor economics implications of new articles and opinion pieces.
LEARNING OUTCOMES
Students will
- learn about the data sets available from the Department of Labor and the Census Bureau to perform research;
- understand the effects of government policies on employers and workers;
- learn how to apply theories of labor economics to public policy;
- learn how to identify a research project, conduct a literature review, and present their research to the class;
- learn how to write a persuasive paper showing both sides of the subject.

AVERAGE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF INDEPENDENT, OUT-OF-CLASS LEARNING EXPECTED PER WEEK
In a 15-week semester, including exam week, you should expect to spend a minimum of 3 hours a week for each hour of instruction. For a 2 ½ hour course, this means that you should expect to study a minimum of 7 ½ hours outside of class each week.

GRADING
- Paper 1 30%
- Paper 2 30%
- Final 40%

Discussions: Each class will feature discussions about the week’s readings and about labor economics news in the press. Students are expected to have completed the readings before coming to class and bring in a labor economics article to discuss. Students will also write two short 5-page papers to be presented in class. Students will be graded on the draft and final version of the paper and the presentations. They will learn to write in professional English and to make polished presentations. Questions are encouraged.

Final exam: The final is cumulative.

BEFORE THE FIRST CLASS
Please write a page telling me why you are interested in Labor Economics, your undergraduate major and why you chose it, your career goals. Please bring a copy to the first class.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS
1. Students should notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance;
2. Faculty should extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examinations;
3. Faculty who intend to observe a religious holiday should arrange at the beginning of the semester to reschedule missed classes or to make other provisions for their course-related activities. For GW’s teaching policies, see http://www.gwu.edu/~academic/Teaching/main.htm

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
The GW Code of Academic Integrity states: “Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” Allowing another student to copy your work is defined as cheating under the Academic Integrity code.

➔ Examples of academically dishonest behavior include, but are not limited to:
1) Cheating
2) Fabrication
3) Plagiarism
4) Falsification and forgery of University academic documents
5) Facilitating academic dishonesty

Sanctions range from failure of the assignment, to failure of the course, to suspension or expulsion from the University.

For the remainder of the code, see: http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)
Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER (UCC) 202-994-5300
The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include:
- crisis and emergency mental health consultations
- confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals
  http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices

SECURITY
In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location.
Economics 6295 Labor Economics and Public Policy

PROBLEM SETS and READINGS
1/19 Week 1: Ch 1 Introduction to Labor Economics

1/26 Week 2: Ch 2 Labor Markets
Short Answer Qs: 2.2, 2.4, 2.6
Problems: 2.2, 2.3

2/2 Week 3: Ch 3 Labor Supply
Short Answer Qs: 3.1, 3.2
Problems: 3.1, 3.2

2/9 Week 4 Ch 4 Labor Demand
Short Answer Qs: 4.6, 4.8
Problems: 4.4, 4.6

2/16 Week 5 Ch 5 Job Attributes
Short Answer Qs: 5.3, 5.4
Problems: 5.1, 5.2

2/23 Week 6: Ch 6 Schooling
Paper 1 Due
Short Answer Qs: 6.1, 6.6,
Problems: 6.2, 6.3

3/2 Week 7: Ch 7 Training, Turnover and Migration
Student Presentations

3/9 Week 8: Ch 8 Discrimination
Short Answer Qs: 8.1, 8.9
Problems: 8.3, 8.4

3/16 Week 9: No CLASS SPRING BREAK

3/23 Week 10: Ch 9 Unions
Short Answer Qs: 9.2
Problems: 9.1, 9.2

3/30 Week 11: Ch 10 Wage Distribution
Short Answer Qs: 10.1, 10.5
Problems: 10.2

4/6 Week 12: Ch 11 Compensation Strategies
Short Answer Qs: 11.3, 11.12
Problems:  11.7, 11.8

4/13 Week 13:   Ch 12 Unemployment
Paper 2 Due
Short Answer Qs:  12.2, 12.7
Problems:  12.1, 12.3

4/20 Week 14:   Student Presentations

4/27 Week 15:   Student Presentations and Review

NOTE: In accordance with university policy, the final exam will be given during the final exam period and not the last week of the semester