

## **Welcome to Senior Seminar ECON 4200 – Labor Economics**

The objective of the Senior Seminar course is to help you continue developing your analytical ability and your written and oral communication skills. Senior Seminar is the capstone course for economics majors. It is a final opportunity to apply the basic theories and ideas you've learned to a new area of economics.

A seminar is fundamentally different from the other courses you have taken. You are required to prepare for each day's class so that you can participate in discussions. In addition, this course assesses your written and oral communications skills as applied to analyzing problems and current issues.

### **CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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Senior Seminar is an integrative capstone course for the economics major that should normally be taken during the student's penultimate or last semester of study. The primary objective is to provide a framework in which senior economics majors can review and solidify their understanding of economic concepts by applying those concepts to specific economic issues. Topics vary. Analytical ability and written and oral communication skills are assessed.

### **COURSE PREREQUISITES**

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To take this course, you must have declared an Economics major and have achieved Senior standing. You also must have earned a grade of C or higher in ECON 3112 (Econometrics), ECON 3122 (Intermediate Microeconomics), and ECON 3123 (Intermediate Macroeconomics).

### **SET YOUR GOALS**

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There are many things you can accomplish in this course. It is up to you to choose your goals to suit your purposes. Your primary objective may be making progress toward graduation.

You have the opportunity to work on formulating an idea, developing a coherent economic analysis of a problem, and persuading others of your views.

You have the opportunity to become a more independent learner. A major portion of your grade for the semester is from your work on a semester-long research paper on the labor market of a given state. There are a wide range of approaches and topics to address and you will need to choose among those.

You have the opportunity to make progress in your written and oral communications. Throughout your life, you will be judged on your ability to present yourself as an educated professional. Your communications skills are part of the first impression you create and so they deserve focused effort.

This course will give you experience relevant to your career. Your experiences in working with a partner in developing a paper and your work in evaluating your peer's work have the potential to be part of your job interviews for the next several years.

*With many possible goals, which will you choose?*

## INSTRUCTOR

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Dr. Carol Swartz  
[cswartz1@uncc.edu](mailto:cswartz1@uncc.edu)  
217 A Friday Building

Office Hours:  
Tu W Noon to 2:00 pm  
and by appointment

## COURSE MATERIALS

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This course uses Canvas for assignments and class communications. Canvas is accessed at <https://uncc.instructure.com/>. Read your email and class announcements in Canvas faithfully.

The required textbook for the course is Labor Economics, 7<sup>th</sup> edition by George J Borjas. News articles related to this course can be found at [Instapaper.com](http://Instapaper.com). Do not delete articles in this file. Log in with the following credentials:

Username: Labor49ers@gmail.com  
Password: Laborisfun

If you want to add a news item to the Instapaper file, email the URL to [readlater.id449u3ntvo@instapaper.com](mailto:readlater.id449u3ntvo@instapaper.com) and your article will appear in the list.

## THIS IS YOUR EDUCATION.

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It is important to your future success that you build and strengthen habits of self-reliance. You must learn to work through problems on your own.

Learning is an inherently cumulative and self-managed activity. It is important to develop problem-solving skills, including the ability to:

- identify resources and leverage them to your benefit,
- identify your knowledge gaps and fill them, and
- evaluate the proposed solution for its correctness and relevance to the problem.

Be resourceful in trying to solve your problems before contacting the instructor. Try five different approaches before asking the instructor for help.

## PATH TO SUCCESS: COURSE GROUND RULES

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1. Be prepared for each class meeting. Complete the assigned reading and master the graphs. Bring questions and applications of the material to class. Be ready to participate in discussions.
2. You are expected to refrain from side conversations during the class. Do not leave the class to visit the vending machines, kill an enemy, check Facebook, rob a bank, try a new margarita recipe, or any other reason. Your actions have consequences for you and for others, so limit your footprint, please.
3. Taking notes by hand facilitates learning. Cursive writing produces more retention than printing. There is sound research to support this.
4. Your use of electronic devices during class will be limited. Taking photos or making recordings is expressly forbidden.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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It is **your** responsibility to be fully and accurately informed of University policies, including, but not limited to, rules regarding dropping and adding courses, graduation requirements, and student conduct. The Dean of Students Office is the authoritative source for these policies.

The UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity will be actively enforced in this course. The code forbids cheating, fabricating or falsifying information, submitting academic work for multiple requirements, plagiarizing, abusing academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. Be sure you know the meaning of these terms. "I didn't think THAT was plagiarizing." is not an acceptable defense. Any special requirements or permissions regarding academic integrity will be stated by the instructor and are binding. You are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty to the course instructor.

If you have a disability that affects your ability to do the work in this course, please contact the Office of Disability Services to obtain a Letter of Accommodation. The office is 230 Fretwell; phone 7-4355.

The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to, ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.

## GRADES

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	Due Date	Points
<b>PAPER</b>		
First paper assignment	26 Jan	50
First draft of paper	16 Feb	100
First peer review of another team's paper	23 Feb	50
Comments on peer review received	28 Feb	50
Second draft of paper	28 March	200
Second peer review of another team's paper	4 April	50
Final draft of paper	13 April	300
<b>PRESENTATIONS</b>		
Grammar presentation	17 Jan – 14 Feb	50
News story presentation	21 March – 11 April	50
Paper presentation	18 April – 2 May	200
<b>EXAMS</b>		
Midterm exam	16 March	200
Final exam	11 May	200
<b>ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION</b>		100
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>		<b>1,600</b>

**Attendance:** In a seminar course, attendance is essential. You will be allowed 3 absences for any reason. Coming to class after the roll has been taken will count as 0.5 absences. Plan your schedule accordingly.

Points will be deducted according to the following scale:

Absences	0 - 3	4 - 5	6-7	More than 7
Points	0	-25	-50	-100

**Course Grades:** Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

Course Grade	A	B	C	D	F
Cumulative Points	1,440 or more	1,280 –1,439	1,120 – 1,279	960 – 1,119	Less than 960

### COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Topic	Assignment or Activity
10 Jan	Tu	Course introduction, Ch 1: Introduction to Labor Economics	Paper teams formed; state assignments completed Grammar assignments for presentations
12 Jan	Th	Ch 1: Introduction to Labor Economics	Career Center presentation Discussion of California paper
17 Jan	Tu	Ch 2: Labor Supply, pp 21 - 42	Grammar presentation (1, 2)
19 Jan	Th	Ch 2: Labor Supply, pp 42 - 63	Grammar presentation (3, 4)
24 Jan	Tu	Ch 2: Labor Supply, pp 64-79	Grammar presentation (5, 6)
26 Jan	Th	Ch 3: Labor Demand, pp 84 - 104	Grammar presentation (7, 8) Paper outline, data, sources due on Canvas, 5 pm
31 Jan	Tu	Ch 3: Labor Demand, pp 105 - 128	Grammar presentation (9, 10)
2 Feb	Th	Ch 4: Equilibrium, pp 144 - 162	Grammar presentation (11, 12)
7 Feb	Tu	Ch 4: Equilibrium, pp 163 - 190	Grammar presentation (13, 14)
9 Feb	Th	Ch 5: Wage Differentials, pp 196 - 222	Grammar presentation (15, 16)
14 Feb	Tu	Ch 5: Wage Differentials, pp 196 - 222	Grammar presentation (17, 18)
16 Feb	Th	Ch 6: Human Capital, pp 229 – 247	First draft of paper due on Canvas, 5 pm

Date	Day	Topic	Assignment
21 Feb	Tu	Ch 6: Human Capital, pp 247 – 275	
23 Feb	Th	Team Writing Conferences	Peer review comments due on Canvas, 5 pm
28 Feb	Tu	Team Writing Conferences	Review of peer review due on Canvas, 5 pm
2 Mar	Th	Team Writing Conferences	
7 Mar	Tu	Spring Break	
9 Mar	Th	Spring Break	
14 Mar	Tu	Ch 7: Wage Structure, pp 282 - 306	
16 Mar	Th	Midterm Exam	
21 Mar	Tu	Chapter 8: Labor Mobility, pp 312 - 330	News article presentation (teams 1, 2)
23 Mar	Th	Chapter 8: Labor Mobility, pp 330 - 356	News article presentation (teams 3, 4)
28 Mar	Tu	Ch 9: Discrimination, pp 362 – 382	Second draft of paper due on Canvas, 5 pm
30 Mar	Th	Ch 9: Discrimination, pp 382 - 405	News article presentation (teams 5, 6)
4 Apr	Tu	Ch 11: Incentive Pay, pp 458 - 477	Peer comments on second draft due on Canvas, 5 pm
6 Apr	Th	Ch 11: Incentive Pay, pp 477 - 489	News article presentation (teams 7, 8)
11 Apr	Tu	Ch 12: Unemployment, pp 494 - 513	News article presentation (team 9)
13 Apr	Th	Ch 12: Unemployment, pp 513 - 535	Final papers due on Canvas, 5 pm
18 Apr	Tu	Final Paper Presentations	
20 Apr	Th	Final Paper Presentations	
25 Apr	Tu	Final Paper Presentations	
27 Apr	Th	Final Paper Presentations	
2 May	Tu	Final Paper Presentations	
<b>Final Exam as scheduled by the University (11 May, 8 am)</b>			