Welcome to Senior Seminar  
ECON 4200

Senior Seminar is designed to be a capstone course. It is a final opportunity to apply the basic theories and ideas you've learned to a new topic. This semester we will be focusing on labor economics. Labor is well-suited for this course because it touches so many other areas of economics. We will explore these connections during the first few classes this semester. While labor mainly uses microeconomic theory, it also has implications for the macroeconomy. In addition, labor lends itself well to quantitative analysis.

A seminar is fundamentally different from the other economics courses you have taken. By now, you have proven that you can read a book and pass a test. You'll still need to read the book, but there are no exams. Your grade will be determined by classroom activities, written work, and presentations.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Senior Seminar is an integrative capstone course for the economics major that should normally be taken during the student's 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**

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).

**COURSE OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the Senior Seminar course is to help you continue developing your analytical ability and your written and oral communication skills. This objective can be accomplished while studying any number of topics. Previous seminars have studied the history of Federal Reserve monetary policy and energy economics. This semester we will look at labor economics.

**SET YOUR GOALS**

There are many things you can accomplish in this course. It is up to you to choose your goals. You have the opportunity to work on your ability to formulate an idea, support it in an argument, and persuade others of your analysis. This will help with job interviews and future work assignments.

You have the opportunity to become a more independent learner. This course does not work on pre-digested problems. You will confront the full-range of real-world data and ideas without any pre-determined organization structure. Your can learn to use your education to sort through the many possibilities to focus on the proven methods of analysis.

You have the opportunity to make progress in your written and oral communications.

*What will you choose?*
INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Carol Swartz  
cswartz1@uncc.edu  
217 A Friday Building

COURSE MATERIALS

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, 7th edition by George J Borjas. You also need to have a copy of The Elements of Style by Strunk and White.

THIS IS YOUR EDUCATION.

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 if you are to succeed.

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

1. Attend class. This is the equivalent of showing up for work. It is necessary but not sufficient to learn the material.

2. Be prepared for each class meeting. Before class, study the assigned material AND learn the specialized vocabulary terms. Bring questions to class. Ask them during class.

3. 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.

4. Taking notes by hand facilitates learning. Cursive writing produces more retention than printing. There is sound research to support this. Your use of electronic devices during class will be limited to specified research projects and preparing impromptu presentations.

5. If you miss a class for any reason, get the notes from a classmate.
UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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.

GRADUES

Grades in this course are based on short papers and presentations and in-class activities. The number and points assigned to each are as follows:

- **Written Work:** three papers, 100 points each
- **Presentations:** three presentations. The initial presentation is 50 points; the remaining two are 75 points.
- **Various in-class activities** ranging from 5 – 20 points each; 60 points total.
- **Attendance grades** are a proxy for class participation. Provided your participation meets expectations, attendance grades are assigned as follows:
  
  
  | 0 – 2 absences | 30 points  |
  | 3 – 4 absences | 15 points  |
  | 5 or more absences | 0 points |

**Course Grades:** There are a total of 590 points in the course... Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Grade</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative Points</td>
<td>531 or more</td>
<td>472 – 530</td>
<td>413 – 471</td>
<td>354 – 412</td>
<td>Less than 354</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COURSE SCHEDULE

Deadlines for the data analysis research, papers, and presentations will be announced at least one week in advance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Reading Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 Jan</td>
<td>Chapter 1 Introduction to Labor Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Jan</td>
<td>Chapter 2 Labor Supply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Jan</td>
<td>Chapter 4 Labor Demand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Feb</td>
<td>Chapter 5 Compensating Wage Differentials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Feb</td>
<td>Chapter 6 Human Capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Feb</td>
<td>Chapter 7 The Wage Structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 March</td>
<td>Chapter 8 Labor Mobility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 March</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 March</td>
<td>Chapter 9 Labor Market Discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 March</td>
<td>Chapter 10 Labor Unions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 April</td>
<td>Chapter 11 Incentive Pay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>