

## PROGRAMS AND POLICIES FOR THE U.S. LABOR MARKET

**PBPO 541, Spring 2012**  
**M, 12:30-3:00 pm**  
**Office Hours: M, 11:30am-12:30 pm**

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**Office: 410 Old North**  
**Phone: 7-1458**

### **Course Texts:**

Ronald Ehrenberg and Robert Smith. *Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy*. 11th edition. Pearson Addison Wesley. 2012

Harry Holzer and Demetra Nightingale eds. *Reshaping the American Workforce in a Changing Economy*. Urban Institute Press. 2007.

**Course Requirements:** 1) Midterm exam (30%); 2) Group Policy Project, including short policy memo, short paper and presentation (30%); and 3) Final Exam (40%). The midterm will be given on February 27 and the policy presentations will occur on the last day of class (April 30). Memos and short papers will be due the following week.

### **I. Labor Market Analysis**

Ehrenberg and Smith, Chapter 2, pp. 35-47; Chapter 3 (not Appendix); Chapter 4, pp. 94-104; Chapter 6; Chapter 7, pp. 208-21; Chapter 15

### **II. Human Capital: Education and Job Training**

Ehrenberg and Smith, Chapter 9

Autor, David. "The Polarization of Job Opportunities in the U.S." <http://econ-www.mit.edu/files/5554>

Holzer, Harry. "Is the Middle of the Job Market Disappearing?" [http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/05/pdf/Holzer\\_memo.pdf](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/05/pdf/Holzer_memo.pdf)

Hamilton Project Papers on Job Training by Harry Holzer and Louis Jacobson et al.:

[http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2011/11\\_workforce\\_holzer.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2011/11_workforce_holzer.aspx)

[http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2011/11\\_displaced\\_jacobson\\_lalaonde\\_sullivan.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2011/11_displaced_jacobson_lalaonde_sullivan.aspx)

Lerman, Turner, and Osterman chapters in Holzer and Nightingale

Haskins, Ron et al. "Promoting Economic Mobility by Increasing Postsecondary Education."

[http://www.economicmobility.org/assets/pdfs/PEW\\_EMP\\_POSTSECONDARY\\_ED.pdf](http://www.economicmobility.org/assets/pdfs/PEW_EMP_POSTSECONDARY_ED.pdf)

### **III. Labor Market Regulation**

#### **A. EEO and Affirmative Action**

Ehrenberg and Smith, Chapter 12

Holzer, H. and David Neumark, "Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action"

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2565419.pdf>

Neal, D. "Why has Black-White Skill Convergence Stopped?"

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w11090.pdf>

Holzer, H. and P. Offner. "Trends in Employment Outcomes of Young Black Men."

[http://www.northwestern.edu/ipr/jcpr/workingpapers/wpfiles/holzer\\_offner.pdf](http://www.northwestern.edu/ipr/jcpr/workingpapers/wpfiles/holzer_offner.pdf)

Blau, F. and L. Kahn. "The Gender Pay Gap in the 1990s: Slowing Convergence."

<http://papers.nber.org/papers/w10853.pdf>

#### **B. Wage and Hours Regulation**

Ehrenberg and Smith, Chapter 4, pp. 108-116; Chapter 5, pp. 147-51;

Neumark, D. and W. Wascher, "Minimum Wages and Employment," pp. 1-69

plus conclusion <http://ftp.iza.org/dp2570.pdf>

Holzer, H. "Living Wage Laws: How Much Do (Can) They Matter?"

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411783\\_living\\_wage.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411783_living_wage.pdf)

Houseman, S. "The Effects of Employer Mandates."

[http://books.google.com/books?id=4vSlisHmhf0C&pg=PA154&lpg=PA154&dq=house+man+employer+mandates&source=bl&ots=Lz051xnkXO&sig=fwwgFtOx2\\_j1uN41h-TAhZV7jCk](http://books.google.com/books?id=4vSlisHmhf0C&pg=PA154&lpg=PA154&dq=house+man+employer+mandates&source=bl&ots=Lz051xnkXO&sig=fwwgFtOx2_j1uN41h-TAhZV7jCk)

#### **C. Occupational Safety and Health**

Ehrenberg and Smith, Chapter 8, pp. 242-263;

### **IV. Unemployment: Labor Exchange/Job Search Assistance, Unemployment Insurance and Trade Adjustment Assistance**

Ehrenberg and Smith, Chapter 14

O'Leary, C. "Evaluating the Effectiveness of Labor Exchange Services."

[http://research.upjohn.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1161&context=up\\_bookchapters](http://research.upjohn.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1161&context=up_bookchapters)

Nicholson, W. and K. Needels, "Strengthening the Relationship Between ..."

<http://www.atypon-link.com/AEAP/doi/pdf/10.1257/jep.20.3.47?cookieSet=1>

Vroman, Wayne. "The Great Recession, Unemployment Insurance and Poverty."  
[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412072\\_great\\_recession.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412072_great_recession.pdf)

Baicker, K. and M. Rehavi, "Policy Watch: Trade Adjustment Assistance"  
<http://www.atypon-link.com/AEAP/doi/pdf/10.1257/0895330041371196>

Kletzer, L. "Trade and Immigration: Implications for the U.S. Labor Market"  
[http://people.ucsc.edu/~lkletzer/LKletzer\\_trade&immigration\\_with\\_tables\\_060507\\_.pdf](http://people.ucsc.edu/~lkletzer/LKletzer_trade&immigration_with_tables_060507_.pdf)

## **V. Collective Bargaining**

Chapter 13, Ehrenberg and Smith

Hirsch, B. "Sluggish Institutions in a Dynamic World: Can Unions and ..."  
<ftp://repec.iza.org/RePEc/Discussionpaper/dp2930.pdf>

Freeman, R. "Where Have All the Unions Gone...Long Time Passing?"

Farber, H. "The Divergence between Private and Public Sector Unionism.."  
<http://www.irs.princeton.edu/pubs/pdfs/503.pdf>

## **VI. Immigration**

Borjas, in Holzer and Nightingale

Card, D. "Is the New Immigration Really So Bad?"  
<ftp://repec.iza.org/RePEc/Discussionpaper/dp1119.pdf>

Holzer, Harry. "Immigration Policy and Less-Skilled Workers in the U.S."  
<http://www.urban.org/publications/1001488.html>

## **VII. Retirement/Disability**

Ehrenberg and Smith, Chapter 7, pp. 222-30;

Munnell, in Holzer and Nightingale

Abraham, K. and S. Houseman, "Removing Barriers to Work for Older..."

Autor, D. and M. Duggan, "The Growth in Social Security Disability Rolls"  
<http://www.atypon-link.com/AEAP/doi/pdf/10.1257/jep.20.3.71>

Bloom and Butler, in Holzer and Nightingale

## **VIII. Child/Family Policies**

Ehrenberg and Smith, Chapter 7, pp. 230-37;

Waldfogel, in Holzer and Nightingale

**IX. Tax Credits for Employment and Low Earnings**

Katz, Lawrence. "Wage Subsidies for the Disadvantaged."

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w5679.pdf>

Eissa, N. and A. Nichols. "Tax-Transfer Policy and Labor Market Outcomes"

<http://www.atypon-link.com/AEAP/doi/pdf/10.1257/000282805774670527>

Carasso, A. et al. "The Next Stage for Social Policy: Encouraging Work and Family Formation among Low-Income Men"

[http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/UploadedPDF/411774\\_encouragingwork.pdf](http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/UploadedPDF/411774_encouragingwork.pdf)