

Econ 520

Labor Supply and Human Capital

Fall 2004

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Office Hours: T, Th, Fri 1-2 and by appointment

Class meeting: MWF 2:00, Food Science 2319

A. Course Objective: To provide a foundation for empirical research in human resources. The coverage includes labor supply and consumption decisions and implications for household income and welfare for agricultural, other self-employed, and wage-earning households; empirical studies of labor force participation, labor supply and multiple job holding; productive household models and technical change; models of human capital formation by households, firms, and public institutions; empirical studies of investments in children, schooling, on-the-job training, health, migration, and information; sources of wage and earning differences; human capital based sources of growth; applications to problems in rural areas of developed and developing countries.

B. Grading:

1. Exams: one midterm and one final exam
2. A 15-20 page research proposal is required; a proposal for a project that could be completed but need not be completed. Historically these proposal have led to creative components/masters theses and Ph.D. dissertation. The proposal itself can be completed after the end of fall semester, but I would like for them to be completed by the end of August 2005.

3. Weights: Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	40%
Research proposal	30%
Total	100%

C. Outline and Reading List (see separate sheets)

Some sections are required coverage and others are optional. All material provides useful basis for initiating the work on the research proposal, and I suggest that you start here.