

**Economics 483 — Fall 2007
Grading Procedures**

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Try out the Web Page: <http://www.udel.edu/Economics/clink>

(All letters above must be lower case except for the ‘E’ in Economics.)

For an "A" grade:

1. Participate in class meetings. (This means attend class & come prepared.)
2. Complete all assignments in a satisfactory manner. (Problem sets, take home exercises, etc.)
3. Earn an "A" average on the exams.
4. Plan and develop a term paper topic which will extend your interest and expertise in the area of labor economics. Length: 9 - 10 pages double-spaced. If you are choosing this track, the proposal is in my office no later than **Thursday September 27, 2006**.
5. Read and review 1 an article by a professional economist. Dr. Link will give you some options. (The due date will depend on which track you choose. **For the A track the due date is Tuesday, November 20.** Late reviews receive a one-grade reduction.) The length is 5 pages. **OR** a student may be a major participant in a class debate in illegal immigration. Debates will take place during the latter part of the semester. Students wishing to select this option will have to make this known to Dr. Link no later than Thursday, **October 11** in class.

For a "B" grade:

1. Participate in class meetings (This means attend class & come prepared.)
2. Complete all assignments in a satisfactory manner. (Problem sets, take home exercises, etc.)
3. Earn a "B" average on the exams.
4. Read and review 1 an article by a professional economist. Dr. Link will give you some options. (The review must be turned in no later than Friday **November 30** at 4 p.m. Late reviews receive a one-grade reduction.) The length is 5 pages. **OR** a student may be a major participant in a class debate. Debates will take place during the latter part of the semester. Students wishing to select this option will have to make this known to Dr. Link no later than Thursday, **October 11** in class.

For a "C" grade:

1. Participate in class meetings (This means attend class & come prepared.)
2. Complete all assignments in a satisfactory manner. (Problem sets, take home exercises, etc.)
3. Earn a "C" average on the exams.

Note: All reports, journal reviews, term papers, as well as the rate of return problem set will be done on a word processor. (Penalty for not doing these on a word processor: one -grade reduction. All late assignments will involve a one-grade reduction on that exercise or problem.)

Potential debate topics: Students selecting this option will have to make this known to Dr. Link no later than Thursday, October 11 in class. There would be class presentations on November 29 and/or December 4. **I will need at least 6 students from the 'A' and 'B' tracks to participate in a debate or the debate will not be an option for the A and B tracks.** Each team in a debate would have 25 - 30 minutes to make their case. The teams can decide whether they want to alternate speakers (pro then con, or vice versa) or make a complete case (by flip of a coin) and then have the other team present. The grade on the debate will be determined by both the team effort as well as by the substance and quality of the presentation made by each individual. However, if one team member does a poor job, that would not significantly affect the grades other members who have clearly put in the time and made the effort to put forth a strong case (and who have made strong individual presentations).

1. "Immigration to the U.S. is harmful and should be curtailed" (Pro and Con immigration to the U.S.).
2. "The US should adopt a universal coverage-single payer health care system like the one in Canada." (Pro and Con)

Material on the debate presentations is game for the second exam.

For reviews of Journal of Economic Literature articles:
(For those choosing the "A" or "B" option)

1. Briefly summarize.
2. Use conventional citation and bibliographical procedures.
3. What is your reaction to the article? (e.g. What was/were the objective(s)? Did the author achieve the objective or objectives? Are there policy implications?) I am trying to expose you to professional economics journals and have you both read and interpret the results. I am asking you to be original. I will give you 3 articles from which to select your review. Select topics of that are of greatest interest to you.
4. Your grade will be 60% on the economic analysis and 40% on the ability to write a well-organized and well-cited essay. That is, if the paper is thrown together with poor grammar, etc. expect a low grade.

Articles that you may review if you are participating in the "A" or "B" track (do 1, 2 or 3 – only one of them):

The first article is a working paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research (I will have a few copies if you choose #1 for your review.

1. Jonathan Gruber and Brigitte Madrian, "Health Insurance, Labor Supply, and Job Mobility," National Bureau of Economic Research, working paper #8817, March 2002.

Article # 2 is from the **Journal of Economic Perspectives**.

2. Francine D. Blau and Lawrence M. Kahn, "Gender Differences in Pay," pp. 75-99. (Fall 2000, vol. 14, no. 4) The **Journal of Economic Perspectives** can be found on-line at the library by going to Library and then selecting electronic journal and then the Journal (access journal name through JSTOR)
3. Francine D. Blau and Lawrence M. Kahn, "Changes in the Labor Supply Behavior of Married Women: 1980 – 2000", Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), discussion paper 2180, June 2006

The review will be 5-6 pages and is due no later than Tuesday, November 20 at 4:00 pm, if you are in the A track and Friday, November 30 at 4:00 pm, if you are in the B track. Penalty for missing deadline: one grade reduction.

Term Paper (For those choosing the "A" option)

The term paper will be worth 100 points and be on a topic mutually agreeable to the student and the instructor. The length for the text of the paper is a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 10 pages--**no exceptions**. (Tables, bibliography, figures, etc. can be included as appendices and do not count as part of your ten pages.) The paper must be done on a word processor and double-spaced. Also, you must use citations (footnotes) where appropriate and follow generally accepted formats for term papers. Papers will be due **no later** than 4 p.m. on Friday, December 7, 2007.

You may use the following guidelines in thinking about a paper topic.

1. **Purpose**. To explain and inform (and give policy implications if appropriate)
2. **Role of the writer**. A critic and/or an advocate (For instance, if you were examining the role of Social Security and its future, you could critique the current program looking at its main benefits and costs.)
3. **Audience**. You may assume that you are an economic advisor to a corporate president or to a governor or to the President of the United States. You could use the information noted in 2 and give the executive key information needed for her to come up with policy. Your goal is to impress the executive.
4. **Subject**. You must focus your topic enough so that you can say something meaningful in the page limits noted above.
5. **Evaluation criteria**. The final grade for the paper will be based on two factors: the quality of the economic analysis (60 percent) as well as the clarity and organization (40 percent) in the paper. Would you turn in a sloppy piece of work to your boss? Doing so is a good way to a) stay in the low level position you are currently in or 2) lose your job.

Paper topics must be finalized with the instructor no later than **Thursday, September 27 at 4:00 pm**. Each student must submit to me a brief summary--in writing--describing the proposed paper. I will make comments. The proposal, as well as the interim reports and final paper, must be done using Word or some other word processing program. I want the proposal in two or three well-organized paragraphs. Don't just give me an outline!!

Students will be given extra credit on the paper if they use the Writing Center or Writer's Workbench at the UD. For the extra credit you must document use of these resources!

Key dates for the paper: (steps 1-4 below are worth 20 of the 100 points)

1. Proposal due by **September 27** (Proposal should be no more than 1 page) I am here to help! Feel free to come in and talk about topics. I want you to select a topic that you would like to learn more about that is related to labor economics. Do not just give me an outline. (5 POINTS)
2. Progress report due on **October 18** (written description of activities accomplished to date with a bibliography that you have collected to date) You need to have 6 - 8 citations by this time. (5 POINTS)
3. Students will be divided into groups of 3 and by **Monday, November 24**, a rough draft (done on a word processor) will be circulated to other students in the group and evaluated by those students. This draft will be returned to each student no later than **Friday November 30**. Students will then make revisions. (5 POINTS)

I will need documentation that this step in the process has been accomplished! You will receive and fill out an evaluation sheet indicating whether or not students responsible for making comments did in fact do so.

4. The finished paper is due by **Friday December 7**, at 4 p.m. Remember, if you are having problems with the paper, come see me and we can solve the problem(s). (5 POINTS)

Each date missed costs you 5 points!!!!!!!!!! For instance, if you missed all 4 of the above dates, the BEST you could do on the paper is an 80, or B-.

ATTENDANCE

Although attendance does not officially count towards your grade, I do "take attendance" at each class. Students are expected to attend punctually all scheduled classes. Given a choice between arriving late and missing class, a student is advised not to arrive late. This is a senior level course so you are presumably here because you want to be. If you do not plan on attending class regularly, I suggest you drop the class now. **More than 3 unexcused absences will result in a ONE FULL GRADE REDUCTION IN YOUR COURSE GRADE for each unexcused absence beyond 3!** For example, suppose your grade before the penalty is A-, after the penalty your grade will be a B-.

Other Important Notes:

1. Students are to take the examinations at their scheduled time. Students missing an examination without a University recognized excused absence will be given a zero (0) score on the missed exam. Students who do not take an examination due to a University recognized excused absence will have the remaining examination counted proportionately more such that there will be no penalty for missing the exam. HOWEVER, THERE ARE NO MAKEUP EXAMINATIONS. Problem sets, journal articles and all other material to be handed in, will be due at 11:00 a.m. on the due date. NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR ASSIGNMENTS TURNED IN LATE except for those accompanied by a written University recognized excused absence (see [Undergraduate Catalog](#)). Similar rules apply to ALL MATERIAL HANDED IN.
Punctual (i.e., on-time) classroom attendance is required. Arriving late to class and/or leaving early is distracting and diminishes the educational attainment of those attending class in accordance with University Policy. Personally, I think it is rude and inconsiderate to obstruct the serious pursuit of learning that students are entitled to and expect. I will end class at or before 12:15.
2. **Cheating will not be tolerated.** Confirmed cases of academic dishonesty will be pursued and punished to the utmost permitted by University regulations. Students are required to be familiar with and abide by the Student Code of Conduct as described in [Undergraduate and Graduate Catalog, 2007 - 2008](#). You are encouraged to become familiar with the University's Policy of Academic Dishonesty that can be found on line [Student Guide to University Policies](#). The content of the Guide applies to this course. The faculty of the Department of Economics is strongly committed to upholding the University policy on academic dishonesty. You are responsible for knowing and abiding by this policy.
The content of the Handbook applies to this course. Examples include exams, major and pop quizzes, problem sets, journal articles and term papers.
Details of the policy are stated in the Official Student Handbook in the Code of Conduct, Section 1, Academic Dishonesty. It can be found online at <http://www.udel.edu/stuguide/05-06/code.html#honest>

3. Assignments, announcements, etc., You are responsible for all assignments, announcements and materials presented in class, in addition to those which appear at the class web site and in your email. Material on exams may not be in any of the readings. Announcements always are made at the start of class. If you miss an announcement, either in class or on the web or in your email, it is your problem, not mine.

You are responsible for watching your email and the web site for important announcements.

Not doing so may cost you points

4. Tuesday, October 23, is the last day to withdraw from courses without academic penalty.

5. Tuesday September 11 is the last day to register or add classes without financial penalty. Students withdrawing from a course will receive a permanent 'W' on their record.

6. Your Economics 483 Course Material Booklet and relevant readings from the various packets and The Selected readings from the McConnell-Brue readings. You are responsible for bringing them to class every day.

7. Cell phones are not allowed. If your cell phone rings during class, you may be asked to leave class.

8. If you come to class **LATE** after a major exam has begun, you will have to stop when the rest of the class stops: 12:15 for major exams.

9. During the semester we will be doing group as well as individual projects (worth points) in and out of class. I understand that other students in the relevant group will be asked whether or not you "carried your weight" in the project. If not penalties will be imposed.

10. You are responsible for all problem sets **(You will copy them from the class web site and do all of your work on the pages provided.)**

Comment [11]: Not sure I will put them on line.

Student Copy

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge that I have received and have in my possession a copy of the syllabus, reading list and grading procedures for ECON 483. I also acknowledge that I have read the above syllabus and the grading procedures for this class and understand clearly the instructor's policies described herein. I further acknowledge that I understand the punctual classroom attendance policy as well as the penalty for more than 3 unexcused absences. I additionally acknowledge that I understand the University's attendance regulations and agree to abide by them as they pertain to this course.

(signed)

(date)

(name - please print)

Dr. Link's Copy

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(Signed)

(Date)

(Name - please print)

Biographical information:

Name _____

Phone #

E-mail address _____

Campus address

Have you had a calculus course? (Circle one: Yes No)

Are you familiar with Windows Excel? (Circle one: Yes No)

If you said that you are familiar with Excel, do you feel confident using the program?
(Circle one: Yes No)

Have you received a C or better in intermediate microeconomics or its equivalent?
(Circle one: Yes No) **If your answer is 'No', you should consider dropping the course since intermediate micro is a prerequisite for EC483!!!!!!**