

Economics 136
Human Resources
Winter 2005
Professor Julian Betts

This course covers the economics of hiring, setting wages and worker incentives, with an emphasis on the economics of education and training.

Prerequisites: Economics 1A-B or 2A-B and Math 10A-B-C or Math 20A-B-C. (We will occasionally use calculus during the course.)

Textbook: Personnel Economics for Managers, by Edward Lazear, 1998, John Wiley and Sons Ltd.

Our textbook is an excellent hands-on book designed to help MBA students think about personnel management in the real world. We will cover both the informal approach in the textbook as well as the more mathematical proofs that are included in the text.

The course will emphasize the economics of education and training slightly more than the textbook, which covers both topics in a relatively short Chapter 6.

Chapters to be covered: 1-9, 11 and if time 12.

Grading:

Test 1 (in class Tuesday Week 4 (January 25), covering chapters 1-3) 20%

Test 2 (in class Tuesday Week 7 (Feb. 15), covering chapters 4-6) 25%

Final exam (covering entire course, with emphasis on new material after Chapter 6) 55%

Note: There will be no lecture Thursday January 27.

Letter Grades

Letter grades will be determined by final % in the course, as follows: 90-100=A+, 85-89=A, 80-84=A-, 75-79=B+, 70-74=B, 66-69=B-, 62-65=C+, 58-61=C, 54-57=C-, 50-53=D, <50% = F.

Teaching Assistants and Office Hours

My office hours are Monday 10:45-11:45 AM Room 212, Department of Economics. You can also reach me at jbetts@ucsd.edu. *If you do use email, please make sure that "136" is in the message title so that I can organize my course-related email easily.*

There will probably be one or more teaching assistants for this course. I will announce their names and office hours shortly. They will tend to bunch their office hours towards exam times.

Policy on Missed Midterms

In general, if you miss a midterm, it is your responsibility. However, if you miss a midterm because of illness, please bring me a copy of a medical slip to class soon after the missed midterm, and I will then add the points from that midterm to the final.