Economics 651 is a graduate survey course in labor economics. The course covers most of the classic topics in labor, including labor supply, labor demand, wage structure, human capital, compensating wage differentials, and job search. Reflecting the field, much of the material will be empirical in nature and will use advanced econometric techniques.

The list of course topics and readings is attached. Those readings with an asterisk will be available on Blackboard; the others are available online from the JHU library system and you can obtain them there. All lectures will be posted on the course Blackboard website at least one day in advance; you should print hard copies for yourself. A supplemental reading list has also been posted on Blackboard.

Additional volumes that may be of special interest are the Handbook of Labor Economics (HLE), Vols 1 and 2 edited by Orley Ashenfelter and Richard Layard, Vols. 3A-3C edited by Orley Ashenfelter and David Card; Vols. 4A and 4B edited by Ashenfelter and Card; and an undergraduate labor text, such as Ronald Ehrenberg and Robert Smith, Modern Labor Economics.

In addition to the regular lectures, I will give two supplemental econometric lectures on causal modeling in microeconomics, at a time to be mutually agreed on. These lectures are required.

The requirements for the course are (1) grades on three short quizzes spread throughout the semester, dates to be announced later (45%), (2) a long written report on a paper to be discussed in class (15%), (3) a series of short written critiques of those same papers (20%), and (4) a report on a recent job market paper in labor economics (20%).

For (2) and (3), a paper is assigned in each topic on the Reading List below. For each paper, one student will prepare a 5-page double-spaced report containing both a summary and a comment-
critique of the paper. All other students will prepare 2-page
double-spaced report containing only a comment-critique of the
same paper. At the end of each lecture, the student preparing
the long paper will give a 10-minute oral presentation of his or
her report, and a class discussion will follow. Both the long
and short reports will be turned in after the discussion ends. I
will assign students to the papers after the first class
(although you can also volunteer for them).

For (4), a list of the papers and instructions on how to prepare
your report will be posted on Blackboard soon. The report is due
at the end of the Exam period (December 19).

10/12/14
Required Readings
(starred items are available on course Blackboard website)

I. Static Labor Supply


II. Application: Labor Supply Effects of Taxes and Transfers

Blundell-MacCurdy, *HLE*, pp. 1563-1572*


III. Household Production


Discussion Paper: Aguiar, Mark; Erik Hurst; and Loukas Karabarbounis, "Time Use During the Great Recession," AER, August 2013.

IV. Collective Models


V. Intertemporal and Life-Cycle Labor Supply

A. Deaton and J. Muellbauer, pp. 309-323*

Blundell-MacCurdy, 1591-1607*

VI. Labor Demand, Equilibrium, and Wage Structure


VII. Compensating Wage Differentials and Hedonics


Discussion Paper: C. Olsen, "Do Workers Accept Lower Wages in

VIII. Roy Model


Maddala,  *Limited Dependent Variable Models* pp.257-260*


IX. Human Capital and Education

R.Ehrenberg and R.Smith, Chap 5,9 (selections)*

G.Becker,*Human Capital*, 1964 Appendix to Chap 3*

J.Mincer,*Schooling, Experience, and Earnings*,1974,Chaps 1,5*

Y.Ben-Porath,"The Production of Human Capital and the Life Cycle of Earnings,"  *JPE*,1967


X. Job Search

