1. **Time:**  5:05 - 6:20 PM, Tu, Th

2. **Place:**  Aresty 531

3. **Description of Course:**

   Economics 311 is both a theory and issues oriented course emphasizing topics in labor economics. The student will learn about the operation of the labor market and how to apply the principles of labor economics to the analysis of various labor market problems. The student will also be provided with the necessary tools for evaluating the role of the federal government in attempting to foster full employment and income security for the population. It is assumed that the student has some basic familiarity with the principles of economics, primarily from Economics 211.

4. **Textbooks:**


5. **Office Hours of the Instructor:**

   3:30 PM - 4:30 PM, Tu, Th, or by appointment if these times are not convenient.

6. **Office Location:**

   517D Jenkins Building (in the School of Business Administration):
   Phone 284-5664

7. **E-Mail:**

   probins@miami.edu

8. **Web Site for Review Questions:**

   http://moya.bus.miami.edu/~probins/

9. **Examinations:**

   There will be three hourly examinations during the semester. **All exams will be held in Aresty 531 (the assigned classroom for the course). None of the exams will be cumulative.**
10. **Attendance**

Class attendance is required. Roll will be taken each class period. For each unexcused absence, one point will be deducted from the semester's total point score. An absence is excused if the student is ill and I receive a doctor's note or if I receive notification from a university administrator that the student is away on official university business. I will allow two unexcused absences before I begin to deduct points. If a student has no unexcused absences at the end of the semester, 8 points will be added to the student’s total point score. If the student has one unexcused absence at the end of the semester, 4 point will be added to the student’s total point score.

11. **Weighting of Examinations:**

The three hourly exams will each be weighted 30 percent toward the final grade. There will also be several problem sets to complete. The average score on the problem sets will be worth 10 percent of the final grade. If a problem set is not turned in, it will be assigned a score of zero.
Course Outline (ALL DATES ARE APPROXIMATE)

I. Introduction, January 14 - 23
   MBM: Chapter 1 - Labor Economics: Introduction and Overview

II. Labor Markets
   A. Labor Supply, Quantity and Quality, January 28 – March 3
      MBM: Chapter 2 - The Theory of Individual Labor Supply
      Chapter 3 - Population, Participation Rates, and Hours of Work
      Chapter 4 - Labor Quality: Investing in Human Capital (pp.86-105 and 121-126 only)

   ***FIRST HOURLY EXAMINATION – THURSDAY, MARCH 5***

   B. Labor Demand, March 17 – March 26 (Spring Recess, March 7 – 15)
      MBM Chapter 5 - The Demand for Labor (pp. 130-141 only)

   C. Labor Supply and Demand Together, March 31 - April 2 (pp. 173 - 191)
      MBM: Chapter 6 - Wage Determination and the Allocation of Labor
      MBM: Chapter 13 - Government and the Labor Market: Legislation and Regulation (pp. 398-406 only)

   D. Alternative Pay Schemes and Labor Efficiency, April 7 - 9
      MBM Chapter 7 - Alternative Pay Schemes and Labor Efficiency

   ***SECOND HOURLY EXAMINATION – TUESDAY, APRIL 14***

III. Labor Unions
   A. Description and Goals of Unions, April 16 -21
      MBM Chapter 13 - Government and the Labor Market: Legislation and Regulation (pp. 393 - 398 only
      Chapter 10 - Labor Unions and Collective Bargaining (pp. 294-326 only)

   B. The Economic Impact of Unions, April 23
      MBM: Chapter 11 - The Economic Impact of Unions

   ***FINAL EXAMINATION – TBA***