

**The School of Social Service Administration
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**

SSA 487

**Community, Jobs, and the New Economy: Strategies for Change
Winter 2005**

Tuesdays 9-11:50 a.m.

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Course Description and Goals

Economic restructuring trends, such as globalization and the rise of the service economy (often labeled the “new economy”), have ushered in new forms of labor market inequality that adversely affect disadvantaged workers, especially minorities and women. This course explores these trends and their effects, but focuses primarily on responses and challenges to these trends by actors at the community level. Students will gain a working knowledge of recent labor market trends, focusing specifically on outcomes by race, ethnicity, and gender, and will learn to use basic labor market data. Through an exploration of strategies for change, students will examine and analyze case studies of workforce development strategies, living wage campaigns, and unionization efforts.

Required Readings

Students should be prepared to review and critically discuss the required readings as active class participants.

1. All readings contained in SSA 487 packet available in the **SSA Production Room**.
2. I **have not** included readings available on-line in the photocopy packet. I have provided appropriate URL's or links to these readings on the course schedule. You will need to download and print them from the web.

Course Requirements

Participation	10% of final grade
Data exercise	25% of final grade
Final paper	65% of final grade

Participation:

Active, engaged, and informed participation by every student contributes to a richer learning experience for the entire class. Please approach this responsibility seriously. Once during the quarter you will be asked to generate discussion questions relative to the readings and that week's topic. These should be emailed to me the day of class. You must attend at least seven class sessions between weeks 2 and 10 to pass the class.

Data exercise: This assignment will be distributed week 5 during the data lab. You will be required to access, manipulate, and critically assess employment data in relation to questions of local labor market conditions and strategies for community-driven employment initiatives. Due week 6.

Final paper: Analyze a labor market issue of your choosing and articulate a community-driven strategy to address this issue. The community initiative may be a case study, or you may devise one of your own. Due week 8.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to labor markets

Chpt. 2 "Overview of the Labor Market"

In Ronald G. Ehrenberg and Robert S. Smith. 1997. *Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy*. 6th ed. Reading, MA: Addison Wesley.

Week 2: Global restructuring and the new economy

Paul Knox and John Agnew. 1998. *The Geography of the World Economy*. 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University Press. Chpt. 2: "The Spatial Reorganization of the Core Economies"

Saskia Sassen. 1998. *Globalization and Its Discontents*. New York: The New Press. Chpt. 7: "Service Employment Regimes and the New Inequality"

E. O. Wright and R. Dwyer. 2003. "The patterns of job expansions in the USA: A comparison of the 1960s and 1990s." *Socio-Economic Review*, Vol. 1, 289-325.
Available on-line; search U of C library catalog for "Socio-Economic Review"; select "electronic resource"; follow appropriate links

Week 3a: Race, ethnicity, and gender in the labor market

Chpt. 12 "Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in the Labor Market"

In Ronald G. Ehrenberg and Robert S. Smith. 1997. *Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy*. 6th ed. Reading, MA: Addison Wesley.

Week 3b: Networks and employment

Katharyne Mitchell "Networks of Ethnicity" in Eric Sheppard and Trevor J. Barnes, eds. 2003. *A Companion to Economic Geography*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, pp. 392-408.

Roger Waldinger. 1995. "The 'other side' of embeddedness: a case-study of the interplay of economy and ethnicity." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, Vol. 18, 555-580.

Week 4a: Space, place, and the labor market

Jamie Peck "Places of Work" in Eric Sheppard and Trevor J. Barnes, eds. 2003. *A Companion to Economic Geography*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, pp. 133-148.

Susan Hanson and Geraldine Pratt. 1991. "Job Search and the Occupational Segregation of Women." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 81: 229-253.

Available on-line at www.jstor.org

Week 4b: Transnational migration and global labor

Helga Leitner "The Political Economy of International Labor Migration" in Eric Sheppard and Trevor J. Barnes, eds. 2003. *A Companion to Economic Geography*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, pp. 450-467.

Week 5: Data lab

Brian Bosworth "Regional Economic Analysis to Support Job Development Strategies" in R. Giloth, ed. 1998. *Jobs and Economic Development: Strategies and Practice*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, pp. 85-104.

Strategy and Practice

Week 6: Training and wage policies

Training:

Ehrenberg and Smith (1997), pp. 159-172.

Jacobsen (1998), "Policy Application: Nontraditional job training programs" p. 259.

Elizabeth Mueller and Alex Schwartz "Why Local Economic Development and Employment Training Fail for Low-Income Communities" in R. Giloth, ed. 1998. *Jobs and Economic Development: Strategies and Practice*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, pp.42-63.

Community initiative: Metropolitan Alliance's DreamWorks campaign

Wages:

Ehrenberg and Smith (1997), pp. 117-127.

Carol Zabin and Isaac Martin (1999). "Living Wage Campaigns in the Economic Policy Arena: Four Case Studies in California." Center for Labor Research and Education, Institute of Industrial Relations, UC Berkeley.
I will email pdf to you.

Community initiative: Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy's Living Wage campaign

Week 7: Campaigns of "New Labor"

Guest speaker: Lars Negstad, Lead Researcher, UNITE HERE! Local 1

Miriam J. Wells. "Immigration and unionization in the San Francisco Hotel Industry" in Ruth Milkman, ed. 2000. *Organizing Immigrants*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, pp. 109-129.

Week 8: Day Laborers and Workers' Centers

Guest speaker: Rev. Brendan Curran, St. Pius V

Abel Valenzuela (2003). "Day labor work," *Annual Review of Sociology*. 29: 307-335.

Available on-line; search U of C library catalog for "Annual Review of Sociology"; select "electronic resource"; follow appropriate links

Week 9: WalMart

Guest speaker: James Thindwa, Executive Director, Jobs with Justice

Jacobsen (1998), chpt. 9 "Causes of Earnings Differences: Discrimination"

Newspaper articles about Wal-Mart and the sex discrimination lawsuit against Wal-Mart will be distributed and/or emailed to you week 8.

Week 10: Student Presentations