ST-Asset Pricing

Economics 482

Section: D100

Term: 2007 Summer

Instructor: B. Delorme

Discussion Topics: This is a special topics course on the economics of human resource management. We begin by analyzing the hiring decision: which kinds of workers to hire and why? We then focus on employee training, including the decision of which workers to train and who should pay for the training. The focus then shifts to the provision of individual and team incentives. We pay particular attention to the design of compensation systems which encourage the efficient amount and type of work effort. Time permitting, we will end the course by looking at quits, layoffs and retirement as well as other issues related to the retention and turnover of employees.

Familiarity with basic microeconomic theory, including cost curves, indifference curve analysis, and basic game theory, is presupposed. Most weeks, a problem set covering the weekís material will be distributed in class. Some of the problems require the use of spreadsheets; thus a basic understanding of EXCEL is advantageous. Students can also expect to read and present articles and to write a review of the material they present. These reviews will count towards the participation grade. A detailed reading list will be handed out during the first week of class.

Grading: Participation   25%

Term Paper   15%

Midterm Exam   20%

Final Exam   40%

The term paper will apply one of the ideas learned in the course.

Required Texts: Lazear, Edward P., Personnel Economics for Managers, Wiley, 1998.

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: ECON 301 and 305; 60 credit hours

Notes: Students requiring accommodations as a result of a disability must contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities (604) 291-3112 or csdo@sfu.ca.

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All students are expected to read and understand SFU's policies with regard to academic dishonesty (T 10.02 and T 10.03). These policies are available at the following web addresses:

http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-02.htm and

http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-03.htm