Econ 310 Labor Economics: Project Topics

Chapter 1
*Neoclassical School

Chapter 2
*Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC: history, current, economic impact)
*Comprehensive and critical review of book on poverty by Rebecca Blank: *It Takes a Nation*

Chapter 3
*9/11 Tribute: Professor Leslie Whittington’s contributions to research in work/family issues*
*FMLA (briefly describe legislation and discuss predicted and actual impacts on employment)*
*Child care subsidies for welfare/low income population under TANF (impact on mothers’ employment outcomes and child development)*
*Temporary Workers: Trends, Reasons, and Implications of these Trends

Chapter 4
*NAFTA (outline legislation and discuss predicted and actual impacts on employment)*

Chapter 5
*Displaced workers (description, why, policies to fix)*
*Impact of internet on employment*

Chapter 6
*The market for baseball players: economics; historical context and current situation (hint: include economics literature on wage determination in this market)*

Chapter 7
*Head Start (as a human capital investment; motivation for federal funding; evidence of impact)*

Chapter 8
*Changing nature of pensions and implications for personal risk*
*Pros/Cons of privatizing social security (include current legislative outlook)*

Chapter 9
*Audit studies of discrimination (history, how used, findings)*
*Mommy Track (history of term, evidence, impact)*
*Glass ceiling (history of term, evidence, potential solutions)*
*Affirmative action (history, economic arguments, evidence on impact, current legal status)*
*Comparable worth (history, economic arguments pro/con; current status)*
Chapter 10
*Employee selection (1 of the 3 human resource management practices)
*Compensation management (1 of the 3 human resource management practices)
*Employee involvement programs (1 of the 3 human resource management practices)
*Executive compensation (including CEOs; include stock options)

Chapters 11/12
*The future of unions (include some history too)
*Detroit Free Press strike about a decade ago (why? result? now?)
*Women and unions (explain past and present trends and discuss implications for employment outcomes for women)
*African Americans and unions (explain past and present trends and discuss implications for employment outcomes for African Americans)

Chapter 13
*Racial differences in unemployment (evidence, over time, link to education, why?)
*Unemployment in the 1990s (US versus Germany: evidence; why? Future projections)
*Unemployment in Eastern Europe since the Transition (describe unemployment during communist regimes and then the changes experienced since the transition to capitalism began)