



Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Fall 2008
Course:	Economics 431 [The Canadian Labour Market]	Section:	01
Time:	MWF 11:00 – 11:50	Place:	SA 147 (subject to change)
Instructor:	Dr. C. J. Bruce		
Office:	SS 414	Telephone:	220-4093
Office Hours:	MW 15:30 – 17:00	E-mail:	cjbruce@ucalgary.ca

Textbook(s):

Bruce, Christopher, Economics of Employment and Earnings, 2nd Edition, Nelson, Toronto, 1995.

Book(s) on Reserve

- : Ashenfelter, Orley and Richard Layard (eds.), Handbook of Labour Economics, Vols. 1 and 2, North-Holland, 1986.
- Ehrenberg, R. and R. Smith, Modern Labour Economics, Scott, Foresman, 5th ed.
- Hirsch, Barry and John Addison, The Economic Analysis of Unions, Allan and Unwin, 1986.
- Gunderson, M. and W.C. Riddell, Labour Market Economics, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 3rd ed., 1993.
- McConnell, C.R. and S. Brue, Contemporary Labour Economics, McGraw-Hill, 1986.

Blackboard:

This course will make use of Blackboard - students who are registered in this course can log on at <https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login/>. Please note that Blackboard features a class e-mail list that I will use. It is your responsibility to ensure that Blackboard uses the e-mail address of your choice. The default is your University of Calgary e-mail address.

Course Outline:

This course has two components: first, its primary focus is the economics of labour supply. Second, it is one of the courses that has been designated by the Economics Department to introduce students to the fundamentals of writing and bibliographic research.

1. Economics of Labour Supply

Labour economics can roughly be divided into two sections: the determination of earnings and the supply of labour. This course deals with the latter; Economics 433 with the former.

We will consider the factors which influence: education, hours of work, division of family responsibilities, fertility, migration, immigration, and retirement. In addition we will investigate the determinants of the level of unemployment and will ask whether unemployment can be reduced without causing inflationary pressures. At each stage, the economic theory will be related to policy issues, such as whether university education should be funded by the government or whether immigrants increase the welfare of the inhabitants of a country.

The chapters to be covered in the textbook are: 1-8 and 18-21.

2. Writing and Bibliographic Research

In this course, an emphasis will be placed on writing and researching skills. Some of the topics to be discussed include:

- The writing process: generating ideas; writing initial drafts; making global revisions.
- Organizational conventions: the paragraph; the three-part essay; specific genres such as op-ed articles, theoretical or survey papers in economics.
- Research papers: conducting research; evaluating sources; identifying and supporting a thesis; managing information and avoiding plagiarism; using and documenting sources; formatting the manuscript.
- Common errors: working for clarity; correcting sentence and grammatical errors.
- Argumentation and critical thinking: understanding the nature of rational argument (claim and reasons); seeking out and analyzing alternative views; shaping an argument around thesis and support.
- Rhetoric: writing conventions in economics; understanding the differences between conventions of writing and of speech-making.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

There will be one mid-term exam worth 20% (October 17), a final exam worth 30%, and four writing assignments worth a total of 50%: 10% for an “op-ed” piece (first draft due October 3; final version: November 4), 5% for a bibliographic research exercise (October 28), 5% for a “motivation” exercise (November 12), and 30% for a term paper (first draft: November 21; final version: December 5). To calculate your final letter grade I will sum your marks on your mid-term exam, writing assignments, and final exam, to get a mark out of 100. .../3

Tests and final exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, then converted to letter grades. The course grade is then calculated using the weights indicated above. As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

A+	90 - 100	B	73.5 – 76.4	C-	60 – 63.4
A	83 – 89.9	B-	70 – 73.4	D+	56.5 – 59.9
A-	80 – 82.9	C+	66.5 – 69.9	D	50 – 56.4
B+	76.5 – 79.9	C	63.5 – 66.4	F	0 – 49.9

If, for some reason, the distribution of grades determined using these equivalences is abnormal, final grades may be adjusted to ensure that they fairly represent student achievement.

A passing grade on any particular component of a course is not essential for a student to pass the course as a whole.

Calculators (programmable and/or non-programmable) will be allowed in exam rooms.

The final examination will be scheduled by the Registrar and held in a classroom. It will be of two hours' duration. Term papers will be returned to students at the Final Exam. The mid-term examinations will be held in a classroom during regular class time.

There will be no multiple choice questions on any examinations.

Students' Union Vice-President, Academic

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www.ucalgary.ca/sue/

Notes:

- Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, etc.) should discuss their work with the Instructor within fifteen days of the work being returned to the class.
- Make-up examinations and deferred examinations will not be given except in cases of extreme personal emergencies. Also, examinations will not be given before the indicated dates.

- It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333
