



Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Fall 2013
Course:	Economics 431 [The Canadian Labour Market]	Section:	01
Time:	MWF 14:00 p.m. - 14:50 p.m.	Place:	SS 006
Instructor:	Douglas McClintock		
Office:	SS408	Telephone:	403-220-5857 (for messages)
Office Hours:	MW: 15:30 - 16:30 (subject to change)	E-mail:	douglas.mcclintock@shaw.ca dmcclint@ucalgary.ca

Textbook(s):

Bruce, Christopher, *Economics of Employment and Earnings*, 2nd Edition, Nelson, Toronto, 1995. Chapters 1 – 8 and 19 and 20 will be sold through the Bookstore.

Books on Reserve:

Benjamin, Dwayne et al. *Labour Market Economics*, Seventh Canadian Edition, McGraw Hill Ryerson, 2012.

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

Course Outline:

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to labour economics and how individuals make choices in terms of employment, salary, leisure and retirement. Labour economics can be roughly divided into two major areas: the determination of wages and the supply of labour. Economics 431 primarily looks at the supply of labour whereas Economics 433 investigates the determination of wages.

In this course, we consider the factors that influence a person's decision in terms of hours of work, education, leisure, division of family responsibilities, migration, immigration and retirement. We will also explore Canada's immigration policy and whether immigration increases the standard of living for Canadians. We will also explore the determinants of unemployment and whether a government policy to reduce unemployment will cause adverse inflationary pressures. At each stage, the economic theory will be related to current policy issues and other observations made by labour economists.

Chapters Covered

1.	The Economic Approach to the Supply of Labour	Chapter 1
2.	Some Useful Concepts: Definitions and Time Value of Money.	Chapter 2
3.	Education and Occupation	Chapter 3
4.	Individual Labour Supply	Chapter 4
5.	Some Economics of the Family	Chapter 5
6.	Migration and Immigration	Chapter 6
7.	Retirement and Pensions	Chapter 7
8.	Labour Force Participation Rates	Chapter 8
9.	Causes of Unemployment	Chapter 19
10.	Unemployment Policy	Chapter 20

(Note: all information in the chapters above will be supplemented by my lecture notes and other readings)

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

2 homework assignments (10% each)	20%
Midterm Examination (Monday October 21, 2013)	20%
Final Examination (set by the Registrar's Office)	30%
Group Term Paper (5% for a bibliography, 25% for the paper)	30%

Assignments:

1. Due dates for the two (2) graded assignments will be announced throughout the term. I usually hand out the assignment two weeks before the assignment is due. Group participation is encouraged but you must hand in your own work. (In your own hand writing)

Term Paper (30% of final mark)

One of the main objectives of this course is to help improve your writing and research skills. The term paper will be a collaborative effort, which will consist of 2 people working on a paper and will be due the last week of lectures. I will hand out a list of relevant topics in the first month of lectures.

The term paper will be graded in 3 parts. The first part will be worth 5 percent and will be a bibliography exercise that will include a list of academic articles that are relevant to the topic you have chosen. This bibliography exercise will be due around the second week of October.

The paper will be worth 20% of your final mark and an additional 5% will be based on group participation. I will hand out a group evaluation form to each member and you will grade each group member on their contribution to the paper. Any “free riders” will receive a zero on this participation mark.

Examinations:

1. Examinations will consist of problem solving questions.
2. The midterm examination will be held during the lecture time. **The exam must be completed during the specified time. Extra time will not be given for any reason.**
3. The final examination will last for two hours and will be scheduled by the Registrar. **The exam must be completed during the specified time. Extra time will not be given for any reason.**
4. The use of a non-programmable calculator is permitted during the midterm test and the final examination. **The use of graphing calculators, computers, cell phones, blackberry’s and other electronic devices (unless approved by your instructor) is not permitted.**

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

A+	97 – 100	B	75 - 79	C-	60 - 64
A	90 – 96	B-	71 - 74	D+	55 - 59
A-	85 – 89	C+	68 - 70	D	50 – 54
B+	80 - 84	C	65 - 67	F	0 – 49

Notes:

1. Students should be aware that no "make-up" midterms will be given. Any student who finds it necessary to miss the midterm must notify the instructor in advance and produce a valid medical certificate (or other required documentation) in order to have the weighting adjusted. This adjustment will result in the final exam counting for 50% of the final grade. Late assignments will be deducted 20% for each business day that the assignment is late.
2. Examinations will not be given prior to the scheduled date.
3. Students should be aware of the academic regulations outlined in The University of Calgary Calendar.
4. Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work should discuss their work with the instructor *within fifteen days* of work being returned to class. However, the earliest that grades will be discussed will be two days after the return of an assignment or examination.
5. Students will be responsible for all material listed on the course outline, regardless of whether or not the material has been covered in class, unless the instructor notifies the class that the material will not be covered.
6. Please note that the following types of emails will receive no response: emails not addressed to anyone in particular; emails where the recipient's name is not spelled correctly; anonymous emails; emails which do not specify the course and section in which you are registered; and, emails involving questions that are specifically addressed on the course outline.
7. I check my emails twice per day, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. (Excluding weekends) Since I teach hundreds of students, please send me an email only if it is absolutely necessary and/or in the case of an emergency.
8. 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.**
9. The use of lap-top computers, notepads, iPads, and electronic tablets are permitted as long as the student uses these devices for note-taking only. Sending emails and/or surfing the internet during lectures is strictly prohibited. **The use of cell phones for any purposes in class is not allowed.**

Students' Union Vice-President Academic:

Emily Macphail

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Students' Union Faculty Representative (Arts)

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Society of Undergraduates in Economics (S.U.E.):

www.ucalgary.ca/sue

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career partnerships with the Career Centre through hosting industry nights and information sessions, recognizing achievements in teaching, and organizing social events for members. Join now by contacting sue@ucalgary.ca.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333
Emergency Assembly Point – Professional Faculties Food Court
