

Economics 431(L01) (Labour Economics)

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Lecture Location: ST 064
Lecture Days/Time: TR 12:30 - 13:45

Office: SS434
Office Hours: FAQ on D2L

(Winter 2020)

Course Description:

This course uses microeconomic theory and statistical analysis to study labour markets. It focuses on decisions made by workers, firms and governments. Key topics include earnings inequality, discrimination, human capital accumulation, migration, and social interactions in the labour market.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course will:

1. Understand and be able to explain the key determinants of labour supply. This includes being familiar with the substitution and income effects of wage changes and the distinctions between static and dynamic labor supply in a life-cycle framework. Students should be able to use a model of labor supply to analyze the potential effect of public policies such as income taxes, child care subsidies or mandatory retirement age rules on labour force participation.
2. Understand and appreciate how labour demand derives from the demand for goods and services.
3. Know and understand the implications for wages of market power in the labour market. Students can explain how wages and employment differ in monopsonies, in contrast with competitive labour markets. Know and understand how labour supply and labour demand interact in equilibrium. Students possess a deep understanding of the benchmark case of perfect competition and are able to describe the theoretical results it generates regarding minimum wage policies.
4. Understand and appreciate the key principles of optimal investments in human capital, and the implications of Canadian education policies for wage inequality.
5. Understand the impact of immigration on labour markets and know the key associated empirical results.
6. Understand and know the differences between taste-based and statistical discrimination and the methods used to evaluate the amount of discrimination in the Canadian labour market. Students should be familiar with key facts such as earnings differentials between genders and between immigrants and non-immigrants.
7. Understand and appreciate the principal-agent framework as well as the design of optimal compensation systems based on economic incentives.
8. Know and understand the basic Canadian institutions related to unionization as well as the notion of collective bargaining.

9. Develop the skills necessary to conduct a critical assessment of economics research papers and economic news reporting. This includes reviewing relevant literature, and communicating results. Included in this outcome are professional skills developed by giving written feedback on others' work.

Course Outline:

- Labour Supply (Chapters 2, 3 and 4)
- Labour Demand (Chapters 5 and 6)
- Labour Market Equilibrium (Chapter 7 and 10)
- Human Capital (Chapter 9)
- Immigration (Chapter 11)
- Discrimination (Chapter 12)
- Incentives (Chapter 13)
- Unions (Chapters 14 and 15)

Prerequisites/corequisites:

Economics 301 and 303 or consent of the Department.

Required Textbook(s):

Benjamin, Dwayne et al. *Labour Market Economics*, Eight Canadian Edition, McGraw-Hill Ryerson Limited, 2017.

Recommended Textbook(s):

None.

Books on Reserve:

None.

Desire2Learn:

This course will make use of the Desire2Learn (D2L) platform. Students who are registered in the course can log on at <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca> through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that may be used to distribute course-related information. These e-mails go to your University of Calgary e-mail addresses only.

Starting March 17, all courses will be moved online. For this course, video recordings of lectures will be posted on D2L via Yuja. A FAQ section will also be made available on D2L to substitute for office hours. The final exam will be a take-home exam, due on April 23, 5:30PM.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

ASSIGNMENTS	20%
MIDTERM EXAM	15%
FINAL EXAMINATION (TAKE-HOME)	35%
TERM PROJECT	30%
	100%

The official grading system will be used. See <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>.

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

If a student's letter grade on the final exam exceeds their midterm(s) letter grade, the weight of the midterm(s) is (are) transferred to the final exam. The student must have written the midterm(s) or provided supporting documentation for the absence(s) such as a medical note or statutory declaration.

As per the Writing Across the Curriculum Statement in the Calendar, writing and grading thereof will be a factor in the evaluation of student work. [See https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html](https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html).

Any student work which remains undistributed after the last day of classes will be available to students through the instructor's office during the instructor's office hours.

The final examination will be an open-book, take-home exam. The exam will be available on D2L on Wednesday April 22 at 5:30PM, that is 24 hours before the end of the Registrar's scheduled final exam time. Students will hand in their exam in pdf format on D2L prior to the end of the scheduled completion time of their final exam using DropBox. If a student cannot write their final exam during this interval, they need to apply for a deferred exam at [www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred final](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final). Under no circumstance will this be accommodated by the Department.

Tests and exams WILL NOT involve multiple choice questions.

Programmable calculators, cellphones, textbooks, course notes, and other electronic devices will not be allowed during the writing of tests or final examinations. Students are reminded that simply being able to access their cellphone during an exam is academic misconduct.

The exact date for the in-class midterm will be announced at least one week in advance.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED QUIZZES/TESTS/EXAMS under any circumstances, nor may the quizzes/tests/exams be written early. Students unable to write the quizzes/tests/exams because of documented illness, family emergency, religious observance, or university-sanctioned event will have the weight shifted to the final examination; otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned.

Reappraisal of Grades and Intellectual Honesty:

For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Statement of Intellectual Honesty, see Calendar K.4

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-4.html>

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct, see Calendar K.5

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

Academic Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-students.pdf> and http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-faculty_0.pdf.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device information:

The use of cell phones for any purpose in class is prohibited. Computers and tablets may be used for note taking only unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf. Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

Important Dates:

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

Student Organizations:

Faculty of Arts Students' Association (F.A.S.A.):

Economics Department Representative

Office: SS 803, E-mail: econrep@fasaucalgary.ca and Web: www.fasaucalgary.ca.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics:

<https://www.ucalgarysue.com/>.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students to succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career events such as Industry Night and information sessions, mentorship programs, and social events for members. They invite you to join by contacting SUE at societyofundergradsineconomics@gmail.com.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580, or email them 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, including program planning and advice.

- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Student Support and Resources:

- See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information on campus mental health resources, the Student Ombuds' Office, Student Success Centre, Safewalk, and Emergency Evacuation and Assembly.
- Online writing resources are available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support>.

Notes:

1. Students are responsible for all assigned material, e.g., supplementary material posted on D2L, regardless of whether or not the material was covered in class.

JWPL

2019-11-21

Revisions: 2020-03-16