



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

## Department of Economics Course Outline

		<b>Term:</b>	Winter 2008
<b>Course:</b>	Economics 433 [Wage Determination]	<b>Section:</b>	01
<b>Time:</b>	TR: 14:00-15:15	<b>Place:</b>	SA 119 (subject to change)
<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. C.J. Bruce		
<b>Office:</b>	SS 414	<b>Telephone.:</b>	220-4093
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TR 15:30-17:00	<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:cjbruce@ucalgary.ca">cjbruce@ucalgary.ca</a>

### Textbook(s):

Bruce, C.J. *Economics of Employment and Earnings*, Second Edition, Toronto: Nelson, 1995.

### Book(s) on Reserve:

- Ashenfelter, Orley and Richard Layard (eds.), *Handbook of Labour Economics*, Vols. 1, 2, and 3, North-Holland, latest edition.
- Ehrenberg, R. and R. Smith, *Modern Labour Economics*, Scott, Foresman, latest edition.
- Benjamin, D., M. Gunderson, and C. Riddell, *Labour Market Economics*, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, latest edition.
- McConnell, Campbell and Stanley Brue, *Contemporary Labour Economics*, McGraw-Hill, latest edition.

### Course Outline:

This course has two components: first, its primary focus is the economics of wage determination. 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 Wage Determination*

This is a course in applied microeconomics. Its purpose is to investigate the determination of wage rates and annual incomes. We will begin by reviewing a number of theories of the demand for labour, including: neoclassical, institutional, segmented labour market, and radical/Marxian theories.

In the first section we will also review the theory of labour-managed firms and the theory of the demand for labour by government agencies. In the second section of the course we will consider a number of specific issues in the theory of wage determination including: the effects of family

background on adult earnings, sex discrimination, trade unions, and government programs to redistribute income.

We will cover Chapters 1, 2 and 9-17 in the textbook.

## **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 (February 28) worth 20%, a final exam worth 30%, and four writing assignments worth a total of 50%: 10% for an “op-ed” piece (draft: February 13, completion: February 27), 5% for a bibliographic research exercise (March 19), 5% for a “motivation” exercise (April 9), and 30% for a term paper (proposal: March 20, completion: April 17). 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.

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 the aforementioned conversion chart appears to be abnormal the instructor reserves the right to change the grade conversion chart if the instructor, *at the instructor's discretion*, feels it is necessary to more fairly represent student achievement.

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

Non-programmable calculators will be allowed during the writing of tests or final examinations.

There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination, lasting 2 hours.

Tests and exams WILL NOT involve multiple choice questions.

Students' Union Vice-President Academic

Brittany Sargent

Phone: 220-3911

E-mail [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)

Students' Union Faculty Representative (Social Sciences)

Nav Thind

Phone: 220-3913 Office: MSC 251

E-mail [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

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

[www.ucalgary.ca/sue/](http://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 15 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.
- **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 e-mail list that I will use. It is your responsibility to ensure that Blackboard uses the e-mail address of your choice; **and that the e-mail address recorded by the Registrar is correct.** (You can check your address on InfoNet.)
- 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

\*\*\*\*\*