Economics 611.33  

Special Topics in Economics (Labour Economics II)

Instructor: Jean-William Laliberté  
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Lecture Location: SS 423  
Lecture Days/Time: TR 11:00 - 12:15

Office: SS434  
Office Hours: TR 15:00 – 16:00  
(Winter 2020)

Course Description:
This is the second course in the labour economics sequence. This course aims to acquaint students with traditional and contemporary topics in labour economics and to encourage the development of independent research interests. Topics include labour supply, immigration, minimum wage policies, unions, education, intergenerational mobility, place effects and discrimination.

As part of this course, students are expected to attend Monday (bi-monthly) and Friday (weekly) seminars.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:
Be able to understand the determinants of labour market outcomes.
Be able to utilize applied econometrics to understand the functioning of labor markets.
By the end of the course students should be able to formulate interesting causal questions.

Prerequisites/corequisites:
Economics 301 or equivalent.

Required Textbook(s):
None.

Recommended Textbook(s):
Handbook of Labor Economics.

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. I will be available to answer any questions by email. The final exam will be a take-home exam, due in April (exam dates TBA). Student presentations will be conducted via Zoom.
Grade Determination/Assessment:

- Assignments (3) 30%
- Research project 20%
- Presentation 10%
- (On Zoom)
- Final Exam 40%
- (Take-home) 100%

Reading List

1. Labour Supply


2. Labour Demand


3. Minimum wages


4. Immigration

• Borjas, George J. "The labor demand curve is downward sloping: Reexamining the impact of immigration on the labor market." The quarterly journal of economics 118.4 (2003): 1335-1374.


5. Unions


6. Inequality: Supply and Demand


7. Inequality: Intergenerational mobility

8. Inequality: Place effects


9. Inequality: Gender gaps and Discrimination


Grade Determination and Final Examination Details
Department of Economics Criteria for Letter Grades. Economics professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent-superior performance, showing-comprehensive understanding of subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>Very good performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>Good performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td>Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>All grades below “B-“ are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

There will be a department scheduled final examination, held in a classroom, lasting 2 hours. Non-programmable calculators WILL be allowed during the writing of tests or final examinations.

Tests and exams WILL NOT involve multiple choice questions.

Absence from a Test/Exam

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED QUIZZES under any circumstances, nor may the quizzes be written early. Students unable to write the quizzes 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. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Department, they need to arrange for a deferred exam with the department.

Reappraisal of Grades and Intellectual Honesty:
For reappraisal of graded term work, see Calendar 0.1
[http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-o.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-o.html)

For reappraisal of final grade, see Calendar 0.1. B
[http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-o.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-o.html)

Statement of Intellectual Dishonesty
[http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-r.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-r.html)

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct
[http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-r.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-r.html)

Academic Accommodations:
The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).
Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

**Important Dates:**
Please check: [http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/academic-schedule.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/academic-schedule.html)

**Student Organizations:**
Faculty of Grad Studies website: [http://grad.ucalgary.ca/home](http://grad.ucalgary.ca/home)

Graduate Students Association: [http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/](http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/)

Professional Development for Grad Students
Workshops and resources can be found at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/mygradskills/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/mygradskills/)

Economics Graduate Association: [http://econ.ucalgary.ca/ega/](http://econ.ucalgary.ca/ega/)

**Evacuation Assembly Point:**
In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The assembly point for this classroom is Professional Faculties - Food Court.

**Safewalk:**
The Safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. Call [403-220-5333](tel:403-220-5333).

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:**
Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. For more information, see [http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia](http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia).

**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, but I highly recommend not to do so.

JWPL
2019-11-26
Revisions: 2020-03-16