Department of Economics
Faculty of Arts

Economics 633(L01) (Labour Economics)

Instructor: Alex Whalley
Phone: (403) 220-7143
Email: alexander.whalley@ucalgary.ca

Lecture Location: SS 423
Lecture Days/Time: TR 11:00-12:15

Office: SS 406
Office Hours: Tuesday 1-3pm

Teaching Assistant: TBA
Email:TBA

Office: TBA
Office Hours: TBA

Course Description:
This course aims to acquaint students with traditional and contemporary topics in labor economics and to encourage the development of independent research interests. Topics include human capital, general and specific training, externalities, technology, tasks, training, contracts, and local labor markets. A detailed outline will be provided on the first day of class.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:
Be able to understand the determinants of labor market outcomes.
Be able to utilize applied econometrics to understand the functioning of labor markets.

Prerequisites/corequisites:
Economics 301 or equivalent

Please Note: In planning this course, I assume students are familiar with Stata and Matlab, or equivalent is required. A programming tutorial will not be provided.

Required Textbook(s):
Acemoglu, Daron and David Autor  Lectures in Labor Economics https://economics.mit.edu/files/4689

Recommended Textbook(s):
Course Requirements/Assessments:

Assignments (approximately 3): 20%
Research Proposal: 20%
Presentations: 20%
Final Exam (Registrar Scheduled) 40%

Reading list

I. Human Capital: Introduction

AA Chapter 1


II. Human Capital: Signaling and Sorting

AA Chapter 2


III.
IV. Human Capital: Externalities and Peer Effects

AA Chapter 3


V. Training Investments, Learning and Sorting

AA chapters 8 and 9


VI. Moral Hazard, Contracts and Superstars

AA chapter 4,5


VII. Imperfect Competition, Frictions and Bargaining


VIII. Skills, Tasks and Technology


IX. Local Labor Markets, Agglomeration and Trade


**X. Presentations**

**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](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.

**Grade Determination and Final Examination Details**

Tests and final exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, then converted to letter grades.

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 Registrar scheduled final examination, held in a classroom, lasting 2 hours.

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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent-superior performance, showing-comprehensive understanding of subject matter</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td></td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation. (See individual undergraduate faculty regulations.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td></td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Incomplete – unsatisfactory (effective January 2007)</td>
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**Grading Scale**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97 – 100</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>79 – 83</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60 – 65</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92 – 96</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>76 – 78</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>56 – 59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>89 – 91</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>73 – 75</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>50 – 55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>84 – 88</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>66 – 72</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 – 49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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 Registrar 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.

**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*
Statement of Intellectual Dishonesty, 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.

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

Student Organizations:
Faculty of Grad Studies website: http://grad.ucalgary.ca/home

Graduate Students Association: http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/

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

Economics Graduate Association: http://econ.ucalgary.ca/ega

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and

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.
• 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.