Economics 633(L01)  Labour Economics

Instructor: Alex Whalley
Email: alexander.whalley@ucalgary.ca
Lecture Location: ONLINE
Lecture Days/Time: WF 11:00-12:15

Office: SS 406
Office Hours: Wednesday 1-3pm (zoom link to be provided)

Teaching Assistant: TBA
Fall 2020

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, inequality, externalities, innovation 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):

Reading List:

I.  Human Capital: Introduction

AA Chapter 1


II. Human Capital: Signaling and Sorting

AA Chapter 2


III. Human Capital: Externalities and Peer Effects

AA Chapter 3


IV. Local Labor Markets and Neighborhoods


V. Training Investments and Learning

AA chapters 8 and 9


VI. Moral Hazard and Contracts

AA chapter 4,5


VII. Inequality


VIII. Presentations

Online Delivery:
This course will be delivered online. Students are expected to be able to participate online in accordance with this Course Outline. Lectures, assignments, office hours, exams, readings and other course material, etc. all require online access and this access is the responsibility of the student. The instructor will make an effort to provide reasonable accommodations and flexibility as circumstances require. Students are expected to raise with the instructor at the beginning of the semester any potential concerns that require such accommodations.

In order to remotely participate in online courses, students will need to have: computer with a current and updated operating system (macOS or Windows will work with all university-supported online learning technologies), a current and updated web browser installed – the latest versions of Firefox, Safari, Chrome or Edge will help to avoid compatibility issues, secure and reliable internet, microphone / headphones, webcam (optional), scanner (or camera to scan your work).

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.
Lectures:
Lectures will be delivered online at the Registrar scheduled times and delivered using ZOOM. The lectures will be recorded and subsequently posted to D2L.

Grade Determination/Assessments:

Assignments: 10%
Research Proposal 30%
Presentations: 20%
Final Exam (Registrar Scheduled) 40%

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>

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.

The final examination will be take-home, comprehensive, and scheduled by the Registrar. Students will download the exam from D2L, complete the exam, scan it, and submit using Dropbox in D2L. Students will have 50% more time to complete the exam, at a time of their choosing, within the 24-hour period that begins 24 hours before the end date of the Registrar’s scheduled final exam for this course. The exam is designed and intended to be completed in two hours. The exam will be open book.

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

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT  
Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students’ academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor’s expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

Student committing academic misconduct during the final exam will not receive a passing grade on the course.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:  

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at  

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  

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  
and  

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  

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 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/

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.

Notes:
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.

AW
2020-08-13