Economics 633(L01) (Labour Economics)

Instructor: Alex Whalley
Email: alexander.whalley@ucalgary.ca
Lecture Location: SS 423

Lecture Days/Time: MF 12:30-1:45

Office: SS 406
Office Hours: Monday 2-4pm or by appointment

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
n/a

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)

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.

Course Requirements/Assessments:
Assignments: 10%
Research Proposal: 30%
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. 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. Inequality – Demand and Supply


VII. Inequality – Tasks and Technology


VIII. Inequality – Firms, Labor Share and Market Structure


IX. Inequality – Trade


X. Bargaining and Frictions


**XI. Mangers and Contracts**


Waldinger, Fabian, Kilian Huber and Volker Lindenthal (2020 ) “Discrimination, Managers, and Firm Performance: Evidence from "Aryanizations" in Nazi Germany”, Working Paper, [https://1c0cf352-4cf7-4608-8745-120663733508.filesusr.com/ugd/0d0a02_feed6caa11049538723f6589964de4b.pdf](https://1c0cf352-4cf7-4608-8745-120663733508.filesusr.com/ugd/0d0a02_feed6caa11049538723f6589964de4b.pdf)

AA chapter 4,5


**XII. Presentations**

**Desire2Learn:**
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**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>
<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>
<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></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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Incomplete – unsatisfactory (effective January 2007)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97 – 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 – 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>66 – 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>60 – 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 – 59</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:**

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

[http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html)

*For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3*

**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 for the course.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: [https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html](https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.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 [https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure](https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure)

**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 [https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy](https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy)

**Copyright Legislation:**
See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at [https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy](https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy) Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

**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](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 Tower.