

## Economics 431(01) The Canadian Labour Market

Instructor: Douglas McClintock

Lecture Location: SH 157

Phone: 403-220-2837

Lecture Days/Time: MWF 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

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Office: SS348

Office Hours: MW: 3:30 – 4:30  
T: 11:00 – 12:00

Fall: 2017

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### Textbook(s):

Bruce, Christopher, *Economics of Employment and Earnings*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Nelson, Toronto, 1995.

### Book(s) on Reserve:

Benjamin, Dwayne et al. *Labour Market Economics*, Seventh Canadian Edition, McGraw Hill Ryerson, 2012.

**Learning Outcomes:** This course will enable students to better understand how individuals make choices in terms of their participation in the workforce. Due to the fact that labour is the primary cause of production, the students will have a better understanding of how labour participation, real wages and changing labour demand will affect important economic issues such as productivity, economic output and the natural rate of unemployment.

**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> using or through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that may be used to distribute course-related information. It is your responsibility to ensure that D2L uses the e-mail address of your choice. The default is your University of Calgary e-mail address.

**Note:** Since the issues in this course change rapidly over time, I will provide many updated and supplementary notes to the theory discussed in the text. These notes are usually posted before the lectures so it is expected that students will have a copy of these notes with them. That way, we can proceed at a speed that is consistent with this expectation.

**Course Outline:**

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to labour economics and how individuals make choices in terms of employment, salary, leisure and retirement. Labour economics can be roughly divided into two major areas: the demand for labour (and hence, the determination of wages) and the supply of labour.

In this course, we consider the factors that influence a person's employment decision(s) in terms of hours worked, education, leisure, division of family responsibilities, migration, immigration and retirement. We will also explore Canada's immigration policy and its impact on unemployment - together with the government's new policy on temporary foreign workers. We will also explore the demand for labour and how wages are determined in a complex economy. At each stage, the economic theory will be related to current policy issues and other observations made by labour economists.

**Chapters Covered**

1.	The Economic Approach to the Supply of Labour	Chapter 1
2.	Some Useful Concepts: Definitions and Time Value of Money.	Chapter 2
3.	Education and Occupation	Chapter 3
4.	Individual Labour Supply	Chapter 4
5.	Some Economics of the Family	Chapter 5
6.	Migration and Immigration	Chapter 6
7.	Retirement and Pensions	Chapter 7
8.	Labour Force Participation Rates	Chapter 8
9.	The Demand for Labour	Chapter 9
10.	Extension to Neoclassical model	Chapter 10
11.	Wage Determination	Chapters 12 and 13

(Note: all information in the chapters above will be supplemented by my lecture notes and other readings)

**Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:**

2 homework assignments (10% each)	20%
Midterm Examination (Wed. October 25, 2017)	20%
Final Examination (set by the Registrar's Office)	30%
Group Term Paper (5% for a bibliography, 20% for the paper and 5% for participation)	30%

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

**Assignments:**

1. Due dates for the two (2) graded assignments will be announced throughout the term. I usually hand out the assignment two weeks before the assignment is due. Group participation is encouraged but you must hand in your own work. (In your own hand writing)

**Term Paper (30% of final mark)**

One of the main objectives of this course is to help improve your writing and research skills. The term paper will be a collaborative effort, which will consist of 2 people working on a paper. *The paper will be due the Wednesday BEFORE the last day of lectures. I will hand out a list of relevant topics in the first month of classes.*

The term paper will be graded in 3 parts. The first part will be worth 5 percent and will be a bibliography exercise that will include a list of academic articles that are relevant to the topic you have chosen. The bibliography will include a short abstract of the papers you have chosen. This bibliography exercise will be due at the end of October. (See the section titled "Important Dates") The bibliography must be submitted in APA format.

The paper will be worth 20% of your final mark and an additional 5% will be based on group participation. I will hand out a group evaluation form to each member and you will grade each group member on their contribution to the paper. Any "free riders" will receive a zero on this participation mark.

**Examinations:**

1. Examinations will consist of problem solving questions.
2. The midterm examination will be held during the lecture time. **The exam must be completed during the specified time. Extra time will not be given for any reason.**
3. The final examination will last for two hours and will be scheduled by the Registrar. **The exam must be completed during the specified time. Extra time will not be given for any reason.**
4. The use of a calculator is permitted during the midterm test and the final examination. **The use of tablets, computers, cell phones, blackberry's and other electronic devices (unless approved by your instructor) is not permitted.**

### Grade Determination and Final Examination Details

Department of Economics Criteria for Letter Grades. Economics professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

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

Assignments, tests and final exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis. The marks are then added using the weights indicated above and converted into letter grades. As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

A+	95 – 100	B	75 - 79	C-	60 - 62
A	90 – 94	B-	70 - 74	D+	56 - 59
A-	85 – 89	C+	67 - 69	D	50 – 55
B+	80 - 84	C	63 - 66	F	0 – 49

The course grade is then calculated using the weights indicated above. The cut-off between letter grades will be at the midpoint between the numerical grades. Part marks of 0.5 or above will be rounded up; below 0.5 will be rounded down. For example, a grade of 79.5 will receive a B+ where a grade of 79.4 will receive a B.

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

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

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>

For reappraisal of final grade, see Calendar I.3

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

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

**Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct,

<http://www.ucalgayr.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

**Academic Accommodation**

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. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities Visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

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 [www.ucalgry.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgry.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)

**Absence from a Quiz/Test/Exam**

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED MIDTERM EXAMS under any circumstances, nor can the midterm exams be written early. Students unable to write exams 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 Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam at [www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred\\_final](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final). Under no circumstance will this be accommodated by the department.

**Additional Notes:**

1. Late assignments, bibliographies and/or term papers will be deducted 10% for each business day that the assignment/paper is late.
2. Examinations will not be given prior to the scheduled date.
3. Students should be aware of the academic regulations outlined in The University of Calgary Calendar.
4. Students will be responsible for all material listed on the course outline, regardless of whether or not the material has been covered in class, unless the instructor notifies the class that the material will not be covered.
5. Please note that the following types of emails will receive no response: emails not addressed to anyone in particular; emails where the recipient's name is not spelled correctly; anonymous emails; emails which do not specify the course and section in which you are registered; and, emails involving questions that are specifically addressed on the course outline.
6. I check my emails twice per day, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. (Excluding weekends) Since I teach hundreds of students, please send me an email only if it is absolutely necessary and/or in the case of an emergency.

**Important Dates**

Date	
<i>Mon. Sept. 11</i>	Lecture begins
<i>Mon. Oct. 9</i>	Thanksgiving – no classes
<i>Wed. Oct. 18</i>	<b>Due date for Assignment #1</b>
<i>Wed. Oct. 25<sup>th</sup></i>	<b>Midterm Test #1</b> (during class time)
<i>Mon. Oct. 30</i>	<b>Due date for Bibliography</b>
<i>Mon. Nov. 13</i>	No classes due to Remembrance Day
<i>Mon. Nov. 27</i>	<b>Due date for Assignment #2</b>
<i>Wed. Dec 6</i>	<b>Due date for Term Paper</b>
<i>Fri. Dec. 8</i>	Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.
<i>Dec 11 – 22<sup>nd</sup></i>	Fall Term Exam Period

Faculty of Arts Students' Association (F.A.S.A.):

Economics Department Representative

Office: SS 803, E-mail: [econrep@fasaucalgary.ca](mailto:econrep@fasaucalgary.ca) Web: [www.fasaucalgary.ca](http://www.fasaucalgary.ca)

Society of Undergraduates in Economics

[www.ucalgarysue.com](http://www.ucalgarysue.com)

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career partnerships with the Career Centre through hosting industry nights and information sessions, recognizing achievements in teaching, and organizing social events for members. They invite you to join by contacting [sue@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sue@ucalgary.ca).

#### *Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources*

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580 or email them at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- 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.
- Online writing resources are available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support>

#### **Evacuation Assembly Point**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at

[www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints](http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints)

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course

#### **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**