



## Department of Economics Course Outline

|                      |                                       |                   |  |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>Course:</b>       | Economics 433<br>[Wage Determination] | <b>Term:</b>      | Winter 2012  |
| <b>Time:</b>         | TR: 11:00 – 12:15                     | <b>Section:</b>   | 01   |
| <b>Instructor:</b>   | Dr. C.J. Bruce                        | <b>Place:</b>     | KNB 128  |
| <b>Office:</b>       | SS 414                                | <b>Telephone:</b> | 220-4093   |
| <b>Office Hours:</b> | TR 15:30-17:00                        | <b>E-mail:</b>    | <a href="mailto:cjbruce@ucalgary.ca">cjbruce@ucalgary.ca</a> |

### Textbook(s):

Bruce, C.J. *Economics of Employment and Earnings*, Second Edition, Toronto: Nelson, 1995.

### Book(s) on Reserve:

- Ashenfelter, Orley and Richard Layard (eds.), *Handbook of Labour Economics*, Vols. 1 and 2, North-Holland, latest edition.
- Ehrenberg, R. and R. Smith, *Modern Labour Economics*, Scott, Foresman, latest edition.
- Gunderson, Morley and Craig Riddell, *Labour Market Economics*, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, latest edition.
- McConnell, Campbell and Stanley Brue, *Contemporary Labour Economics*, McGraw-Hill, latest edition.

### Course Outline:

This course has two components: first, its primary focus is the economics of earnings. Second, it is one of the courses that has been designated by the Economics Department to introduce students to the fundamentals of writing and bibliographic research.

#### 1. Economics of Earnings

Labour economics can roughly be divided into two elements: the determination of earnings; and the supply of labour. This course deals with the former; Economics 431 with the latter.

This is a course in applied microeconomics. Its purpose is to investigate the determination of wage rates and annual incomes. We will begin by reviewing a number of theories of the demand for labour, including: neoclassical, institutional, segmented labour market, and radical/Marxian theories.

In the first section we will also review the theory of labour-managed firms and the theory of the demand for labour by government agencies. In the second section of the course we will consider a number of specific issues in the theory of wage determination including: the effects of family background on adult earnings, sex discrimination, trade unions, and government programs to redistribute income.

The chapters to be covered in the textbook are: 9 - 17.

## 2. Writing and Bibliographic Research

In this course, an emphasis will be placed on writing and researching skills. Some of the topics to be discussed include:

- The writing process: generating ideas; writing initial drafts; making global revisions.
- Organizational conventions: the paragraph; the three-part essay; specific genres such as op-ed articles, theoretical or survey papers in economics.
- Research papers: conducting research; evaluating sources; identifying and supporting a thesis; managing information and avoiding plagiarism; using and documenting sources; formatting the manuscript.
- Common errors: working for clarity; correcting sentence and grammatical errors.
- Argumentation and critical thinking: understanding the nature of rational argument (claim and reasons); seeking out and analyzing alternative views; shaping an argument around thesis and support.

### Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

| Assignment or Exam           | Due Date       | Weight |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------|
| <i>Written work</i>          |                |        |
| • Bibliographic research     | February 9     | 10%    |
| • Motivation exercise        | March 1        | 10%    |
| • Term paper (draft)         | March 29       | 10%    |
| • Term paper (final)         | April 12       | 20%    |
| <i>Examinations</i>          |                |        |
| • Mid-term                   | March 13       | 20%    |
| • Final                      | Registrar      | 30%    |
| <b>Other important dates</b> |                |        |
| • Reading week               | February 19-26 |        |
| • Good Friday                | April 6        |        |
| • Last day of classes        | April 13       |        |

To calculate your final letter grade I will sum your marks on your mid-term exam, writing assignments, and final exam, to get a mark out of 100.

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. As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

|    |             |    |             |    |             |
|----|-------------|----|-------------|----|-------------|
| A+ | 90 - 100    | B  | 73.5 - 76.4 | C- | 60 - 63.4   |
| A  | 83 - 89.9   | B- | 70 - 73.4   | D  | 56.5 - 59.9 |
| A- | 80 - 82.9   | C+ | 66.5 - 69.9 | D  | 50 - 56.4   |
| B+ | 76.5 - 79.9 | C  | 63.5 - 66.4 | F  | 0 - 49.9    |

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

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

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

Tests and exams WILL NOT involve multiple choice questions.

Students' Union Vice-President Academic:

Ola Mohajer

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Society of Undergraduates in Economics (S.U.E.):

[www.ucalgary.ca/sue](http://www.ucalgary.ca/sue)

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. Join now 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 new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us 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.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

**Notes:**

- Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, etc.) should discuss their work with the Instructor *within fifteen days* of the work being returned to the class.
- Make-up examinations and deferred examinations will not be given *except in cases of extreme personal emergencies*. Also, examinations will not be given *before* the indicated dates.
- **Blackboard:** This course will make use of Blackboard - students who are registered in the course can log on at <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login> . Please note that Blackboard features a class e-mail list that I will use. It is your responsibility to ensure that Blackboard uses the e-mail address of your choice; **and that the e-mail address recorded by the Registrar is correct.**
- It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333  
Emergency Assembly Point – SS Food Court

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CJB/mi  
2011-11-25