

## Economics 633(L01) (Labor Economics)

Instructor: Atsuko Tanaka  
Phone: 403(220)6709  
Email: atanaka@ucalgary.ca

Lecture Location: SS 423  
Lecture Days/Time: MW 8:00 – 9:15 am

Office: SS 432  
Office Hours: MW 9:15-10:00 am

Fall 2016

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### Course Description

This is a graduate course in labor economics. The course emphasizes empirical implementation of theoretical models through the use of data and econometrics. Topics include labor supply theory, search theory, wage determination theories, and numerical methods for the estimation of dynamic models. The main text will be lecture notes made available throughout the course.

This course will be a combination of lectures and student presentations. There will also be two empirical projects.

### Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

The objectives are to develop empirical skills and research skills in order to produce research papers with a focus on empirical labor economics. We study aspects of labour markets using both microeconomic theory and empirical evidence. Focus will be on the econometric methods of analysis that are currently applied beyond the traditional boundaries of labour economics into public economics, the economics of crime, the economics of education, gender economics, and the economics of immigration. By the end of the course, students will be ready to start a research project and develop it into a final product.

### 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)

*Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy*, Ronald G Ehrenberg and Robert S. Smith, Prentice Hall, 2011

### Recommended Textbook(s)

*Labor Economics*, Pierre Cahuc and André Zylberberg, The MIT Press, 2004.

**Reserved Readings**

N/A

**Course Requirements/Assessments:**

Students will be evaluated based on their class performance, in-class presentation, and two empirical projects.

- Weekly Review Questions
- Problem Set I: (Due Oct 26)
- Problem Set II: (Due Nov 30)
- In-class Presentation: Students are asked to present papers from a reading list.
- Final Exam (TBA)

The grade breakdown is as follows:

Weekly Review Questions--- 20 percent

Two Problem Sets--- 40 percent

In-class Presentations--- 20 percent

Final Exam--- 20 percent

**Detailed Course Outline:**

N.B. The dates and details of this outline are subject to change.

1. Introduction
2. Overview of the Labor Market
3. The Demand for Labor
4. Labor Demand Elasticities
5. Frictions in the Labor Market
6. Supply of Labor to the Economy: the Decision to Work
7. Labor Supply: Household Production, the Family, and the Life Cycle
8. Compensating Wage Differentials and Labor Markets
9. Investments in Human Capital: Education and Training
10. Worker Mobility: Migration, Immigration, and Turnover
11. Pay and Productivity: Wage Determination within the Firm
12. Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in the Labor Market
13. Unions and the Labor Market
14. Unemployment
15. Inequality in Earnings
16. Other Topics
17. Students' Presentation

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**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.

**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	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.
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing-comprehensive understanding of subject matter	C	2.00	
A-	3.70	Very good performance	C-	1.70	
B+	3.30	Good performance	D+	1.00	
B	3.00	Satisfactory performance	D	1.00	
B-	2.70	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies	F	0	

**Grading Scale**

A+	95 – 100	B	73 – 76	C-	60 – 62
A	85 – 94	B-	70 – 72	D+	56 – 59
A-	80 – 84	C+	67 – 69	D	50 – 55
B+	77 – 79	C	63 – 66	F	0 – 49

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

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 14 days after the start of this course.

### **Absence from a Test/Exam**

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED QUIZZES under any circumstances, nor may the quizzes be written early. Students unable to write the quizzes 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 [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.

### **Important Dates**

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

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/>

### **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**