

ECON 351: Labour Economics Fall 2011

Instructor: Stéphanie Lluis
Time & Place: Monday-Wednesday, 2:30-3:50pm; location HH 280
Office: Hagey Hall-239
Email: slluis@uwaterloo.ca

Office Hours: M-W 10:00-11:30pm.
Please feel free to email me to set up an appointment if these hours do not fit your schedule.

Course Objectives

Labour economics studies the behaviour of individuals and firms and the various outcomes of their interactions within markets. We will analyze individual-level, firm-level and market-level factors affecting employment and unemployment. We will also study the role of international forces and country-specific institutional rules governing labour decisions on the part of individuals and firms. The course has two objectives: to help you understand the operation of labour markets and to give you the economic tools to explain and discuss public policy issues.

Readings

Suggested Textbooks: *Benjamin, D., M. Gunderson, T. Lemieux, and W.C. Riddell, "Labour Market Economics" (6th Edition), Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2007. Available at the Dana Porter library

*Borjas, G., "Labor Economics", Irwin McGraw Hill.

Prerequisites: Econ 201 or 202. Econ 221 highly recommended.

UW-ACE Class announcements, notes, assignments and any relevant information will be posted at <https://uwangel.uwaterloo.ca/uwangel/frameIndex.htm>.

Student Responsibilities

There will be two term tests during the semester, an assignment and a final exam.

Term Tests

The first test will be on Monday **October 3rd** and the second one on Monday **November 7th**. Both tests will be held in the usual classroom (HH 280) during class hours. Students must write **at least one** term test to pass this course.

Assignment

This assignment is to familiarize you with research in labour economics. You will be asked to choose 2 articles on a given topic and compare and contrast their results, conclusions and

methodology. More details will be provided in class. The assignment will be due on the **last day of class**. The choice of topic and articles will be due **November 16th**.

Final Exam

A final examination will be given during the Fall Term examination period, and will cover the entire term's material with more emphasize on the last part of the course.

Classroom Expectations

Turn off and do not answer your cell phone. Laptop computers are not permitted in class unless the student can show that it is used for the purpose of note taking.

Be on time for class. Unforeseen events occur and students have multiple demands on their time. If you must arrive late or leave early, provide advance notice to the instructors whenever possible.

Grading Policy

The course grade will be computed based on two weighting schemes:

Scheme 1

Term test 1	25%
Term test 2	25%
Assignment	15%
Final Exam	35%

Scheme 2

Term test 1 or 2	25%
Assignment	15%
Final Exam	60%

The final grade will be based on the maximum of the grades under each scheme.

Missed Termed Tests/Final Exam

There is no make-up for a midterm test. Students who miss a test will be graded on the alternative scheme (60 % on the final). Students must write **at least one** term test to pass this course.

A student who has been ill (documentation required, no photocopies, *only original documents*) and has missed the scheduled final exam **MUST** petition the department **within five calendar days** to write the departmental deferred examination. If the student has failed to write the departmental deferred examination, the student will automatically receive a grade of 0 for the missed deferred final examination.

Course Topics (with reference to BGLR book's chapters)		
Part I	Foundations	
	Labour Supply	Chapters 2-4
	Labour Demand	Chapters 5-6
	Competitive Equilibrium	Chapter 7-8
	Human Capital	Chapter 9
Part II	Aggregate Labor Market	
	The Wage Structure	Chapter 10
	Labour Mobility	Chapter 11
	Unemployment	Chapters 17-18
Part III	Applications	
	Discrimination, Unions	Chapter 12, 14-16

Avoidance of Academic Offenses

All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71, Student Academic Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71, Student Academic Discipline <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>. If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are the graduate advisor and the Associate Dean of Graduate Affairs. Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Note for Students with Disabilities

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.