

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics
Econ 351
Introduction to Labour Economics
Winter 2016
M&W 8:30-9:50 in EV3 3412

Instructor Information

Instructor: Professor Stéphanie Lluís
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Office Hours: Mondays: 2:30pm-3:30pm.
Please feel free to email me to set up an appointment if these hours do not fit your schedule.
Additional office hours will be offered before the midterm and assignments.

Course Description, Goals and Learning Outcomes

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.

Prerequisites: Econ 201 or 202 and Econ 221.

Readings

Suggested Textbooks: *Benjamin, D., M. Gunderson, T. Lemieux, and W.C. Riddell (BGLR),
“Labour Market Economics” (7th Edition), Toronto: McGraw-Hill
Ryerson, 2012. On reserve at the Dana Porter library
*Borjas, G., “Labor Economics”, Irwin McGraw Hill.

Class announcements and note and any relevant information will be posted on LEARN at <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/>

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

Course requirements

There will be one midterm test during the semester, 3 assignments and a final exam.

Term Test

The test will be on **Wednesday February 10th** and will be held during class hours.

Assignments

The first two assignments will consist in exercises related to the chapters covered in class. The first assignment is due **Wednesday January the 27th** and the second one is due **Wednesday March 16th**. They are due at the beginning of class. Correction is done in class on that same day so no late submission will be accepted.

The third assignment is to familiarize yourself with research in labour economics. You will be asked to choose 2 articles on the same topic and compare and contrast the approach, results, and conclusions. More details will be provided in class regarding examples of topics and journals to choose from.

Your choice of topic and the title of the 2 articles chosen (with articles attached or a reference for me to find them) will need to be submitted to me by email for approval by **Monday March 21st** along with the Academic Integrity acknowledgement form signed by you:

(http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infoacad/AI_Acknowledgement_Forms/index.html).

The assignment is due in class (a paper copy + electronic copy emailed to me) no later than **Monday April 4th**.

Final Exam

A final examination will be given during the Winter Term examination period, and will cover the entire term's material with more emphasize on the second part of the course (after the midterm).

Course Assessment

The course grade will be computed based on the following weighting scheme:

Midterm test	30%
Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2	10%
Assignment 3	10%
Final Exam	40%

Missed Midterm/Final Exam

There is no make-up for the midterm test. A student who is ill and misses the test needs to provide appropriate medical documentation (no photocopies, *only original documents*) to me **within 48 hours of the missed test**. If the appropriate documentation has been submitted on time, the weight of the midterm will be shifted to the final exam's weight.

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 48 hours of the missed final exam** 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. For more information on the Economics Deferred Exam Policy please visit <https://uwaterloo.ca/economics/current-undergraduates/policies-and-resources/deferred-final-exam-policy>.

Grading Policy

Students who would like their test or assignments regraded need to ask the instructor immediately after the test or assignment has been given back. The regrading will apply to the entire test and may not automatically result in a higher grade than before.

Electronic Device Policy and 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 notes taking.

Institutional-required statements for undergraduate course outlines approved by Senate Undergraduate Council, April 14, 2009

Academic Integrity

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity Webpage \(https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) and the [Arts Academic Integrity Office Webpage \(http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/current-undergraduates/academic-responsibility\)](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/current-undergraduates/academic-responsibility) for more information.

Grievance

A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>). When in doubt please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline

A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing academic offenses and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71, Student Discipline](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm) (<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm) (<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm>).

Appeals

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm) (<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>).

Note for Students with Disabilities

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, 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.