

**University of Waterloo**  
**Department of Economics**  
**ECON 452-001**  
**Topics in Labour Economics**  
**Spring 2017**  
**1:00-2:30 pm Monday & Wednesday, EV3 1408**

**Professor:** Kate Rybczynski

**Office:** 242 Hagey Hall

**Hours:** 8:30-10:00 am Monday, Wednesday, or by appointment

**e-mail:** krybczynski@watarts.uwaterloo.ca

**web page:** <http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~krybczyn/452/>

(This web page is password protected, if you are unable to attend the first class, e-mail me for the password)

**Course Description:**

This course introduces students to theoretical and empirical research in various topics in labour economics. We will study topics ranging from compensating differentials, human capital, labour market discrimination, self-employment, and search and matching models. In addition to reviewing labour market theory, students will learn the methodological tools used to address common research questions. We will review strengths and limitations of a variety of analyses, and discuss the implications for researchers and policymakers. Much of this course will focus on learning how to craft and present good research, particularly in the field of labour economics. To that end, a term paper represents a major component of this course, in addition to two 5 minute presentations (one in late May, the other in early July).

**Course Requirements and Grading Scheme:**

Presentations (2)	15% ea.	May 29, 31, July 10, 12
Term Test	20%	July 24 (in class)
Research Proposal	20%	Due: June 13 (on learn)
Term Paper	30%	Due: July 17 (on learn)

**Topics:**

1. Determination of Relative Wages
2. Human Capital v Signaling
3. Discrimination
4. Incentives
5. Self-Employment
6. Search & Matching
7. Policy

**Required Readings:**

There are no required texts for this course. A list of articles for each topic are available on Learn and may be updated prior to the start of each topic. In addition, the [Writing Centre](#) has a number of resources and one on one appointments to help you polish your term papers.

If you haven't taken ECON 351, you a good introductory text is: Labour Market Economics, Benjamin, Gunderson & Riddell (2002). Helpful Econometric resources include: Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach, 2e, Wooldridge (2002), Econometric Analysis, Fifth Edition, Greene (2003), Econometric Analysis of Cross Section and Panel Data, Wooldridge (2002), and Angrist, Joshua D., and Jorn-Steffen Pischke. Mostly harmless econometrics: an empiricist's companion. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009. Any editions of these texts.

## **The Rules for ECON 452:**

Your research proposal and term paper must be submitted at 11:30am, on learn, on the due date. If late, 10% will be deducted for the first day, and 5% each day thereafter.

A student who misses the term test should read the following policy on missed exams <https://uwaterloo.ca/economics/current-undergraduates/policies-and-resources/deferred-final-exam-policy>. A student who misses the term test may request to write a make-up (deferred) test. The make-up test will be substantially different than that written by the rest of the class and will be held at the end of term. Note that writing a deferred test will be treated as writing a deferred final exam. Students applying to write a make-up are required to submit a [Deferred Final Examination Request form \(PDF\)](#) and attach supporting documentation (i.e. [Verification of Illness form](#) and Quest unofficial transcript) for **EACH** missed test. Any student who fails to write the deferred test will automatically receive a grade of zero on that test.

---

## ***Territorial Acknowledgement***

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Learn more about the [Anishinaabe](#), [Haudenosaunee](#), [Six Nations](#), and [land acknowledgement](#).

---

## ***Your Rights and Responsibilities:***

### ***Accommodation for Students with Disabilities***

**Note for students with disabilities:** The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (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 AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

### ***Mental Health Services***

[Mental Health Services](#) aim is to provide holistic programming and services to help you lead a healthy and balanced life. We strive to provide a secure, supportive environment for students of all orientations and backgrounds.

Students suffering from problems with anxiety, depression, problems with sleep, attention, obsessions or compulsions, relationship difficulties, severe winter blues, etc., may make an appointment by phone or in person. Appointments are usually available within two days of initial contact with one of our medical doctors. All contacts are completely confidential.

### ***Academic Integrity***

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity](#) webpage and the [Arts Academic Integrity](#) webpage for more information.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (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. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 – Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties, check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

**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](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

**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](#).

### ***Cross-listed course***

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.