

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics
ECON 351: Labour Economics
Course Outline - Winter, 2011

Professor: Kate Rybczynski

Office: 242 Hagey Hall

Hours: Mon. & Wed. 9:50am - 11:20am, or by appointment

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web page: <http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~krybczyn/351/>

Lectures: Monday and Wednesday 2:30-3:50pm , HH 280

Course Description:

A study of the supply of labour by individuals (and unions) and the demand for labour by firms; topics include the labour market effects of social assistance, unemployment insurance and minimum wages, discrimination in the labour market, efficient wage contracts, human capital, signalling and unemployment.

Course Materials:

The text book for this course is Labour Market Economics, 6th Edition, by Benjamin, Gunderson, Lemieux and Riddell. Note: although the 6th edition is what the bookstore has stocked, previous editions contain the majority of the core materials we will cover if you can find a used copy. There is a copy of the 6th edition on reserve at WLU and we will hopefully have one at UW Dana Porter shortly.

On Line:

[Lecture Slides](#)

[Assignments](#)

[Study Questions](#)

[Supplementary Reading Material](#)

Topics:

I.	Intro and Tools	ch.1
II.	Labour Supply	ch.2 & 15 (to p464)
III.	Policy Effects on Labour Supply and Labour Dynamics	ch.3-4
IV.	Labour Demand	ch.5-6
V.	Equilibrium under Various Market Types	ch.7
VI.	Human Capital vs Signalling	ch.9
VII.	Ability Bias	ch.9
VIII.	Efficiency Wages	ch.13 & p.559-563
IX.	Unemployment & Search Theory	ch.17-18
X.	Bargaining	ch.15 (p464 on)
XI.	Discrimination & Gender & Wage Differentials	ch.12 & 8 (to p236)
XII.	Labour Market and Immigration	ch. 11

Approximately one week will be spent on each topic.

Comments and further reading suggestions will be available on the course web page. Students are advised to check this page frequently, particularly when preparing for assignments or exams.

Course Requirements and Grading Scheme:

Assignment 1	(10%)	Due Monday, February 7
Mid-Term	(30%)	*Wednesday, February 16
Assignment 2	(20%)	Due Monday, March 21
Final Exam	(40%)	*TBA

The Rules for ECON 351:

Assignments must be handed in No Later than 11:59pm in the assignment drop box (outside HH210 in the slot labelled ECON 351) on the day that it is due. Any missed assignments will automatically receive a grade of zero.

If you miss the mid-term, the weight of this test will automatically go to your final exam. No make-up will be held. If you do better on the final exam than on mid-term, I will automatically shift the weight of this exam to your final exam.

At the discretion of the instructor, a student who misses the Final Exam may write the a make-up for the Final Exam ONLY. This make-up will be substantially different than that written by the rest of the class, and may contain an oral component. Students applying to write this make-up are required to fill out a "petition addressed to the departmental examinations and standing committee" and submit it to me **within 48 hours** of missing the final. On this form, you must state the reasons for the missed test and provide documentation (medical or other).

Request forms are available at the department, and online at <http://www.economics.uwaterloo.ca/DepartPetition.pdf>. You may also read the Departmental policy here: <http://www.economics.uwaterloo.ca/DeferredExams.html>. A student who fails to write the deferred exam will automatically receive a grade of zero on that exam.

Your Rights and Responsibilities:

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. "

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. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. 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>

Appeals: "A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals." <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

"How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students and Instructors" - <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

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, Grievance." <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm> .

Disability: "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 OPD at the beginning of each academic term."