

**University of Waterloo**  
**Department of Economics**  
**ECON 452-001**  
**Topics in Labour Economics**  
**Winter 2018**

**11:30am-12:20pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday EV3 4412**

**Instructor:** Kate Rybczynski

**Office:** 242 Hagey Hall

**Office Hours:** 2:30-3:30 pm, Monday, Wednesday, or by appointment

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**Web Page:** <http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~krybczyn/452/>

(This web page is password protected, attend the first class, check learn, or 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, an empirical paper represents a major component of this course, in addition to three research.

**Course Goals and Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Discuss the strengths (weaknesses) of theoretical explanations for observed labour market outcomes.
- Concisely explain the methods, findings, and contributions of labour research articles.
- Present research in a clear and compelling manner.
- Craft an empirical labour paper that exhibits sound research decisions, and is well written.

**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.
- If you haven't taken ECON 351, you a good introductory text is:
  - Labour Market Economics, Benjamin, Gunderson & Riddell (2002).
- Helpful Econometric resources include any editions of the following texts:
  - Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach, 2e, Wooldridge (2002)
  - Econometric Analysis, Fifth Edition, Greene (2003)
  - Econometric Analysis of Cross Section and Panel Data, Wooldridge (2002)
  - Angrist, Joshua D., and Jorn-Steffen Pischke. Mostly harmless econometrics: an empiricist's companion. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009.
- The [Writing Centre](#) also has a number of resources and one on one appointments to help you polish your term papers.

**Resources Available Online:**

- Lecture slides
- Announcements
- Study Questions
- LEARN – password for course website & communication

**Course Requirements and Assessment:**

<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Date &amp; Location</i>	<i>Weighting</i>
Presentation 1 (other)	January 15-19 in class	15%
Presentation 2 (other)	February 2-16 in class	20%
Presentation 3 (own)	March 26-April 1, in class	15%
Research Proposal	February 28, (on learn)	15%
Empirical Paper	April 4 (on learn)	25%
Participation	Attendance and constructive feedback at presentations	10%
Total		100%

**Note:** Accommodation or assistance to facilitate your presentations, can be arranged. Please see AccessAbility contact information on the next page. I am happy to accommodate.

**Course Outline (Approximate):**

Week	Topic	Readings (see reading list for all readings)
1-3	Determination of Relative Wages	
3	Presentations	
4-5	Human Capital v Signalling	
6-7	Presentations	
8-9	Discrimination	
9	Incentives	
10	Self-Employment	
11	Search & Matching	
12-13	Presentations	

**ECON 452 Policies:**

**Attendance -**

- I will take attendance during presentations, and those who do not attend their classmates’ presentations will lose participation marks.
- For full participation marks, I expect you to provide constructive feedback on your classmates’ work at least once during the term.

**Missed Presentations -**

- You will be permitted to make up a missed presentation if you provide a Verification of Illness form.
- Other causes for missing presentations may be accepted, but must be properly documented.
- Students may be granted alternative presentation dates, but advance notice is required for all absences other than illness or emergency.

**Late Work -**

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

**Territorial Acknowledgement:**

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg 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 Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Six Nations, and territorial acknowledgement.

**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.

**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 offenses 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.

**Mental Health Support:**

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

**On Campus**

- Counselling Services: [counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca) / 519-888-4567 ext 32655
- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

**Off campus, 24/7**

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 x6880
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 x 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS [website](#)

Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)

Download the [WatSafe](#) app to your phone to quickly access mental health support information