

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics
Econ 351: Introduction to Labour Economics
Fall 2021
M-W 11:30am-12:50pm in B1-271

Instructor Information

Instructor: Professor Stéphanie Lluís
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Webex Office Hours: Mondays, 4pm-5pm (link posted on LEARN),
Wednesdays, 3pm-5pm (link posted on LEARN).

This course will be delivered in the **traditional in-person format**. As such, students are expected to attend every class for both learning and evaluation.

Note: in the event of a Fall campus closure related to COVID-19, the course will be delivered synchronously through Webex. The midterm test will become a take-home test.

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", Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2012. The 7th edition (used) is available on Amazon for under \$60.
- *Borjas, G., "Labor Economics", Irwin McGraw Hill.

Class announcements and note and any relevant information will be posted on LEARN.

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, two assignments** during the semester and a **final** exam.

Term Test

The test will take place on Wednesday **November 3rd** and will be held in the classroom **during class time**.

Assignments

The two assignments will consist in exercises related to the chapters covered in class. The first assignment is due **Wednesday October 6th** and the second one is due **Wednesday November 17th**. They are due at the beginning of class. Correction is done in class on that same day so no late submission will be accepted.

Course Assessment

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

Midterm test	30%
Assignment 1	15%
Assignment 2	15%
Final Exam	40%

Missed Midterm/Final Exam

There is no make-up for the midterm test. A student who has been ill and misses the midterm test needs to provide appropriate medical documentation (including if it applies, a proof of covid test results) to **the instructor within 48 hours of the missed test**. Testing locations can be found here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-test-and-testing-location-information>. In this case, the weight of the midterm will be shifted to the final exam's weight. For a missed final exam, refer to the [departmental deferred examination policy](#).

Missing Class due to Self-isolation

If a student becomes ill due to covid, the student needs to inform the instructor and email the positive test results. The student is encouraged to use the virtual office hours for any questions on the posted material during the 2 weeks of required self-isolation. If the self-isolation period overlaps with the midterm day, the student missing the test day will have the weight of the midterm shifted following the missed test policy above.

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.

Late Work

You are expected to complete assignments on time. Late assignments are subject to a point penalty (25% per day late). Assignments submitted after I presented the correction in class will not be accepted and will receive a grade of 0.

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>).

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 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.