

York University
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
Department of Economics

AP/ECON 3240 3.0 M
Labor Economics: Theory
Winter 2020 Course Outline

Course Instructor Contact:

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Course Consultation Hours: W2:30-4:00, R5:30-7:00

Course Web Site: Moodle

Calendar Description / Prerequisite / Co-Requisite

Applies economic theory to labour markets. Topics include labour force participation, hours of work, investment in education and training, worker mobility, demand for and supply of labour, the effects of market structure on wages and employment, and theories of trade unions and collective bargaining.

Prerequisites: AP/ECON 1000 3.00 and AP/ECON 1010 3.00 or equivalents. Course credit exclusions: AP/ECON 3249 3.00, GL/ECON 3540 3.00. PRIOR TO FALL 2009: Course credit exclusions: AK/ECON 3610 3.00, AS/ECON 3240 3.00, AS/ECON 3249 3.00, GL/ECON 3550 3.00.

Lecture Time and Location

Lecture:

- Online delivery format.
- Course Materials will be delivered on Moodle every Friday around 9:00am.

Teaching Assistants

TBA

Organization of the Course

This course involves formal lectures presented by the course instructor. The classroom technology will be used extensively, such as PowerPoint, or MS word format presentation. There will be extensive usages of the course web site. Reading assignments, practice problems, problem solving, etc., for each lecture session, tutorial sessions or TA availability, etc., will be announced on the course web site.

Course Learning Objectives

This course focuses the critical thinking about labor markets, the developments of facility for both theoretical and empirical critical thinking. This course will also focus on public policy, a consistent theoretical framework applied not only to current policy issues but also to new policy issues emerging over time.

Upon completing this course, students should be able to:

- a. Identify a set of core labor economics ideas. Using the core ideas students build a theoretical framework for various labor market analyses.
- b. Perform real world applications. A main challenge for economics students is the application of economic ideas to real world scenarios. Throughout the study of the rich variety of applications explained in this course, students should be able to explain how the real world issues, such as labor force participation, employment or unemployment and wage, education and training, union and collective agreement, etc., are explained by core economic concepts.
- c. Think critically. The core of labor economics is the neoclassical supply and demand model. Students construct logical, consistent arguments concerning various labor market variables such as employment and earning.

Course Text / Readings

Textbook/Optional Course Materials:

Benjamin, Dwayne, Morley Gunderson, Thomas Lemieux, and W. Craig Riddell, *Labour Market Economics*, 8th edition, (Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson).

Microeconomics, 15th Edition, Campbell McConnell, Stanley Brue, Sean Flynn, Tom Barbiero, McGraw-Hill Ryerson 2019.

Useful Reference:

Modern Labour Economics, Ehrenburg and Smith, 12th Edition, Addison-Wesley 2015.

Labour Economics, George Borjas, 7th Edition, McGraw Hill, 2016.

Contemporary Labor Economics, McConnell, Brue & MacPherson, 10th edition, McGraw-Hill, 2013.

Evaluation *

The grade for this course is composed of the mark received for each of the following components:

Type of Assessment	Percent/Weight	Date
Midterm Exam I (24 hr take-home)	25	Feb 7
Midterm Exam II (24 hr take-home)	25	Mar 20
Final (in-class 150 minutes)	50	Apr 7 - 25
TOTAL	100%	

The following conversions will be used in converting percentage grades to letter grades:

90-100 (A+), 80-89 (A), 75-79 (B+), 70-74 (B), 65-69 (C+), 60-64 (C), 55-59 (D+), 50-54 (D), 40-49 (E), 0-39 (F).

Please note that I strongly believe that the best learning experiences occur when there are healthy attendance and discussions. Therefore, I have a policy to give some bonus points based on **Moodle Discussion Board attendance and participation (usually maximum of 5%)** in order to encourage attendance and discussion. Feel free to ask any questions or simply make comments on relevant topics at any time.

Problem sets will be posted in the course web site throughout the semester. Some of them may be solved in discussion board. These problems will not be graded, however, I encourage you to work through them. It will help you understanding the course material and consequently, increase the probability that you will do well in the course. Practice may not always make perfect, but it's a good start.

Discussion Boards

The online Discussion Board on Moodle should be used for all course content related questions. If you send me an email about a course content related question, I will ask you to post your question to the Discussion Board. The Discussion Board is particularly important in an online course, as it helps to generate "class discussions," allows all students to benefit from the questions and answers posted, and it allows each of you to join the discussion and help answer each others questions, which is an excellent way to reinforce what you are learning. The TA will be monitoring the Discussion Board daily to answer any questions. I also will chime in if I have anything to add. Please check the Discussion Boards often and try to help answer any questions your fellow classmates may have, as well as post questions of your own. Let's get chatting!

Deferred Exam Policy:

There will be no deferred midterm exam policy applied for any reason.

A student with an unexpected medical reason may complete the 24-hour take home midterm at a later time based on an individual arrangement.

Deferring the Final Exam:

The deferred final exam policy may be applied for an unexpected medical reason only.

If a student missed a course requirement during the semester and has to defer the final exam as well then the student may submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

Tentative Sequence of Topics Covered and the Lecture Schedule

Session	Topics, Reading and Activity
01 Jan 10	Topics: Review of Consumer Choice and Income Leisure Model, Introduction and Overview of Canadian Labour Market. Readings: Benjamin, Ch 1, Jobs Report: The State of the Canadian Labour Market* McConnell, Ch 3. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/jobs-emplois/pdf/jobs-emplois-eng.pdf
02 Jan 17	The Theory of Labour Supply: Decision to Work Readings: Benjamin* Ch 2, Ehrenburg Ch 6, Borjas Ch 2, McConnell Ch 7 Labour Demand in Competitive Labour Markets Part 1: Readings: Benjamin* Ch 5, Ehrenburg Ch 3 and 4, Borjas Ch 3, McConnell Ch 9 and 14
03 Jan 24	
04 Jan 31	
05 Feb 7	Midterm Exam I (Weeks 1-4 Covered) (Drop Deadline: Mar 13)
06 Feb 14	Labour Demand in Competitive Labour Markets Part 2: Readings: Benjamin* Ch 5, Ehrenburg Ch 3 and 4, Borjas Ch 3, McConnell Ch 9 and 14
Study Week Break: Feb 15 - Feb 21	
07 Feb 28	Topic: Wage Determination Readings: Benjamin* Ch 7, McConnell, Brue, Flynn, Barbiero, 14th edition, Ch 11 and 15.
08 Mar 6	
09 Mar 13	Unemployment Readings: Benjamin* Ch 16 & 17
10 Mar 20	Midterm Exam II: (Weeks 6-9 Covered)
11 Mar 27	Topic: Union and Collective Bargaining Readings: Benjamin* Ch 14 and 15
12 Apr 3	
Final Exam	Apr 7 - 25

New Information and Changes:

The schedule is subject to change –sometimes there are unexpected absences or we bog down on an issue. Check your class notes, or contact me for up-dated work schedules.

It may be very possible to make some adjustments of lectures and/or exams schedules. Students may also have handouts for the topics discussed in the class. It is students' responsibility to be aware of any policy (or schedule change), or to collect handouts from classes. If you miss classes, contact the instructor before or immediate after, and check if there is any policy change or handout distributed.

There is no excuse for not knowing course policies or schedule changes, or for not having handouts.

Additional Information / Notes

Important Course Information for Students

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents)

- http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm

- York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures/Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION

The Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (ASCP) provides a [Student Information Sheet](#) that includes:

- [York's Academic Honesty Policy](#) and Procedures / [Academic Integrity Web site](#)
- [Access/Disability](#)
- [Ethics Review Process](#) for Research Involving Human Participants
- [Religious Observance Accommodation](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Additional information:

- [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Alternate Exam and Test Scheduling](#)
- [Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy](#)

The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for 'full year' courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade.

- Important University Sessional Dates (you will find classes and exams start/end dates, reading/co-curricular week, add/drop deadlines, holidays, University closings and more.

<http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/importantdates/index.htm>

- "20% Rule"

No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer terms.

- Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.
- Services for Mature and Part-time Students

The Atkinson Centre for Mature and Part-time Students (ACMAPS) maintains and strengthens York University's ongoing commitment to welcome and to serve the needs of mature and part-time students.

For further information and assistance visit: <http://www.yorku.ca/acmaps>