

York University
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
Department of Economics
Fall 2020

Course # and Title: AP/ECON 3240.C Labour Economics: Theory

Course Webpage: <https://moodle.yorku.ca/>

Instructor

Name: Mir Ahasan Kabir
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Lecture: Thursday, 16:00-19:00
Virtual office hours: By appointment only.

Times and locations: Please note that this is a course that depends on remote teaching and learning. There will be no in-person interactions or activities on campus. “Several platforms will be used in this course (e.g., Moodle, Canvas, Zoom, etc.) through which students will interact with the course materials, the course director/TA, as well as with one another. Please review the syllabus to determine how the class meets (in whole or part), and how office hours and presentations will be conducted. Students shall note the following:

- Zoom is hosted on servers in the U.S. This includes recordings done through Zoom.
- If you have privacy concerns about your data, provide only your first name or a nickname when you join a session.
- The system is configured in a way that all participants are automatically notified when a session is being recorded. In other words, a session cannot be recorded without you knowing about it.

Technology requirements and FAQs for Moodle can be found here -

<http://www.yorku.ca/moodle/students/faq/index.html>

Course credit exclusions: AP/ECON 3249 3.00, GL/ECON 3540 3.00.

Course Description:

This is an introductory course in labour economics and involves applying economic theory to labour markets. The objectives of the course are three-fold. Firstly, fundamental economic concepts and tools are introduced. Second, these tools and concepts are then specifically used to analyze the labour market, with a specific focus on the Canadian labour market. Topics explored include labour force participation, demand for and supply of labour, the effects of market structure on wages and employment, investment in education and training, worker mobility, theories of discrimination in the labour market, and unemployment. Lastly, students will be able to use their newly acquired skills to deepen their understanding of and critically comment on current labour market issues and policies.

Technical requirements for taking the course:

To fully participate in the course I am expecting that students participate through audio conferencing. All the quizzes, term tests, and final exams will be through the Moodle course website. In addition to a stable, high-speed Internet connection, these students will need a computer with webcam and microphone, and/or a smart device with these features.

Organization of the course:

The entire course, including the submission of assignments, participation/discussion and test-taking, will take place on the course’s Moodle. Although we are scheduled to meet at particular times and days of the week, this course has no live virtual meetings outside office hours. Like an online course, you can learn the course material at your own pace, following the schedule of readings and activities.

Course Text/Readings:

Bengamin, Gunderson, Lemieux, Riddell, *Labour Market Economics*, 8th Edition (CANADIAN EDITION). McGraw-Hill Ryerson. Print ISBN 978-1-259-03083-3, Digital ISBN 978-1-259-10168-7

Weekly Schedule

Dates	Chapter	Topic	Quiz Due
Sep. 10	1	Introduction to Labour Market Economics	
		PART ONE: Labour Supply	
Sep. 17 - Sep. 24	2	Labour Supply: Individual Attachment to the Labour Market	
Oct. 1 - Oct. 8	3	Labour Supply and Public Policy: Work Incentive Effects of Alternative Income Maintenance Schemes	Chapter 2 Sep. 24 - Oct. 1
Oct. 15	-	<i>Reading Week</i>	Chapter 3 Oct. 8 - Oct. 15
Oct. 22	(Ch. 1-3)	<i>Term Test 1 - 20%</i>	
		PART TWO: Labour Demand	
Oct. 29 - Nov. 5	5	Demand for Labour in Competitive Labour Markets	
Nov. 12	6	Labour Demand, Non-Wage Benefits, and Quasi-Fixed Costs	Chapter 5 Nov. 5 - Nov. 12
Nov. 19	(Ch. 5-6)	<i>Term Test 2 - 20%</i>	Chapter 6 Nov. 12 - Nov. 19
Nov. 26	7	PART THREE: Labour Demand and Supply Together Wages and Employment in a Single Labour Market	
Dec. 3	10	PART FOUR: The Determination of Relative Wages Wage Structures across Markets	Chapter 7
	16	PART SIX: Unemployment Unemployment: Meaning, Measurement, and Canada's Experience	Nov. 26 - Dec. 3
Dec. 10			Chapter 10 & 16 Dec. 3 - Dec. 10
Dec. 9 - 23	Cumulative	<i>Final Exam 30%</i>	

Note: There may be small changes to the reading list, which will be announced as the course progresses. I may provide additional material during class.

Course Policies:

- Recorded lecture will be released before the scheduled class, for that week's material, with an expectation that students will review the lecture before/during the class.
- Scheduled lecture hours will be used as a live question and answer sessions.
- Post-class quizzes will be available on the eclass for a week after the lecture till midnight before the next class.
- Each quiz has 15 multiple choice questions. For each quiz, you have one attempt, and 25 minutes to complete it. All the MCQs will be picked randomly from a pool of similar questions.
- I welcome course-related questions (academic or administrative) via the Moodle discussion board. TA will reply to the post within a business day.
- You are permitted to contact me by york email at *mahasan@yorku.ca* only if it is a personal matter - generally, I respond to all the emails within a business day.
- Optional 1 hour tutorials may be scheduled throughout the semester.

Evaluation:

Quizzes: 30% of the course final grade. There will be seven quizzes, the minimum scored quiz will be dropped from grading. Each quiz has 15 MCQs, duration 25 minutes.

Term Test 1: 20% of the course final grade, on the 22nd of October Tuesday from 16:00 to 17:30 (90 minutes). There will be 5 short answer questions from chapter 1 - 3. Under any circumstances, there will be no makeup for missing the term test and weight will automatically be transferred to the final exam.

Term Test 2: worth 20% of the course final grade, on the 19th of November Tuesday from 16:00 to 17:30 (90 minutes). There will be 5 short answer questions from chapter 5 & 6. Under any circumstances, there will be no makeup for missing the term test and weight will automatically be transferred to the final exam.

In case a student missed both the term tests only one of the term test's weight will be transferred to the final and the other term test will be zero out of twenty.

Final Exam: 40% of the course final grade (To be scheduled by the Registrar's Office between Dec. 9 - Dec. 23) 120 Minutes, comprehensive, covering all course material, with more emphasis on later chapters. There will be 8 short answer questions.

If a student receives a higher grade on the final exam than one of the term tests, the final exam grade will substitute the lowest term test score. In that case final exam will be 60% of the final grade.

Quizzes and Exam Environment Setup:

You will take all the quizzes, term tests and final exam online during the scheduled date and time. Have your computer checked to make sure it works fine and also check your JavaScript-enabled web-Browser.

- The quizzes and exams will only start if you have a JavaScript-enabled web-browser.
- The quizzes and exams will appear in a full screen popup window, lockdown browser, that covers all the other windows and has no navigation controls.
- You are prevented from using facilities like copy and paste.

A test quiz has been created and is available in Moodle which is highly recommended to take before the exam to check your JavaScript-enabled lockdown web-browser.

Structure of the Quizzes and Exams:

Type	Quizzes	Term Test 1	Term Test 2	Final Exam
Multiple Choice Questions	15 * 1			
Short Answer Questions		5 * 4	5 * 4	8 * 5
Marks	15	20	20	40
Weights	30	20	20	30
Duration (Minutes)	25	90	90	120

Exam Environment

- All the questions are from a large bank of questions sorted by topics and level of difficulties, it is near impossible to cheat with limited time.
- Random question order and Sequential questions where students cannot go back to old questions.
- All the quizzes and exams are open book: this helps reduce the stress created, if any.
- While it is open book, time will be tight so you need to prepare for the test exactly like you would for an in-person test and you won't really have much time to look up things in the notes.
- All of the above settings are recommended by the university's Learning and Technology Services office.

Grading:

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

Exam Rules:

- No student will be allowed to write the exam before the scheduled date.
- No student will be allowed to write the exam to improve the letter grade.
- York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community. In case, any of the exam dates clash with the day of your religious observance, you are responsible for contacting me at least two weeks in advance. To arrange for an alternative date, you must complete a Religious Accommodation Form (see Important Academic Forms section).
- Cheating and plagiarism are considered to be serious offenses by York University. Please visit the Academic Integrity website <http://www.yorku.ca/acadinte/students/index.htm> to read the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty.

Deferred Final Exam Policy:

Students must fill out the Deferred Standing Agreement form (see Important Academic Forms section) and submit it along with all original supporting documentation to the Department of Economics located in 1144 Vari Hall within 10 business days of the original exam date. Submitting the form does NOT guarantee permission to write the deferred exam. Only submissions that meet all requirements will be granted permission. Students whose submissions are not granted will receive a zero for their final exam score.

There is only one date for the Deferred Final Exam, which will be during the following semester. The exact date will be announced later. Deferred Standing for the final exam will be considered only under the following circumstances:

1. MEDICAL CIRCUMSTANCES: Exams missed due to medical circumstances must be supported by a York Attending Physicians Statement filled out completely by a medical doctor or licensed psychologist/counselor, dated within 48 hours of the final exam date. The statement must include:

- Full name, mailing address, telephone number of the physician.
- The nature of the illness and its duration (i.e., specific dates covered)
- An indication of whether the illness and/or medication prescribed would have **SERIOUSLY** affected the student's ability to study and perform over the period in question.

The physician's office may be contacted to verify that the statement was completed by the physician.

2. NON-MEDICAL CIRCUMSTANCES: Exams missed due to non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation, i.e., death certificates, obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/bus ticket receipt for emergency travel (with the date of booking on the ticket), etc. Airline/train/bus ticket/receipts for emergency travel must indicate destination, departure, and return dates. Having to work at the time of the exam or non-emergency travel are not valid excuses for missing an exam.

Important Academic Forms:

Religious Accommodation: http://registrar.yorku.ca/sites/registrar/files/pdf/exam_accommodation.pdf

Deferred Standing Form: http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/deferred_standing_agreement.pdf

Attending Physician's Statement Form: http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attending_physicians_statement.pdf

York’s Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures is located on the [York University Senate webpage](#). As per Senate Policy, academic honesty and integrity is defined as conduct that violates the ethical or legal standards of the University community or of one’s program or specialization is subject to severe penalties. Students are responsible for understanding the nature and consequences of these offences, as contained in the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. More information on academic integrity for students can be found on the following websites:

[York Academic Integrity Website](#)

<https://www.library.yorku.ca/web/research-learn/academic-integrity/> and

[Academic Honesty, Senate Policy](#)

<https://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>

Important Dates

	Fall Term 2020
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 22
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 6
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 6
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript)	Nov. 8 - Dec. 8

Important Information for Students: All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the [Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage](#).

- York’s Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures are located on the [York University Senate webpage](#). As per Senate Policy, academic honesty and integrity are defined as conduct that violates the ethical or legal standards of the University community, or one’s program or specialization is subject to severe penalties. Students are responsible for understanding the nature and consequences of these offenses, as contained in the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. More information on academic integrity for students can be found on the [York Academic Integrity Website](#).
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants located using the [Senate Policy Research Involving Human](#)
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities can be accessed using the [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities link](#).
- Information on student conduct standards can be reviewed on the [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities webpage](#).
- Students requiring religious accommodation should review the Religious Accommodations Guidelines using the [Religious Observance link](#).