York University
Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies
Department of Economics
AP/ECON 3249 Labour Economics (Writing)
Section A
Summer 2022

Prerequisites: AP/ECON 1000 3.00 and AP/ECON 1010 3.00 or equivalents. Course credit exclusions: AP/ECON 3240 3.00, GL/ECON 3540 3.00.

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Course Instructor

Name: Matias Cortes
Office: 1088 Vari Hall
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-2:00pm
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Lecture Time and Location

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30-5:30pm
Location: ACW 204

Expanded Course Description

The aim of this course is to introduce students to a number of topics in labour economics. Students will learn about a range of stylized facts related to various labour market outcomes for Canada and other countries, both in the long term and over the business cycle. Students will also learn about a number of recent theoretical models that have been developed by economists to analyze these trends. By the end of the course, students will have a solid understanding of how the labour market works. They will be familiar with the main recent trends in variables such as unemployment, wages, and wage inequality, as well as the theoretical frameworks that are used to study these variables. The topics we cover will help students to develop a critical understanding of a number of policy-relevant current labour market issues. Students will also develop a data project that will expose them to the process of working with real-world data and writing a short report.

Course Text / Readings

The main (required) text for the course is **Benjamin, Gunderson, Lemieux, and Riddell,** *Labour Market Economics,* **8**th **edition** (abbreviated **BGLR** below). Some of the topics we will cover will be based on **Cahuc, Carcillo, and Zylberberg,** *Labor Economics,* **2**nd **Edition** (abbreviated **CCZ** below). The coverage in the CCZ book is highly technical; however, the topics will be covered in class in a less technical manner. The relevant chapters from the CCZ book will be made available through Moodle. Additional readings (also required) will be indicated on the course website. The course website will also include links to additional resources, including suggested research papers, newspaper articles and podcasts that are relevant to each topic.

Evaluation

The breakdown of the course grade is as follows:

Problem Sets (4 in total, 2.5% of the final grade each)	**10%**
Midterm Exam	**20%**
Final Exam	**30%**
Data Project	**40%**

- The **problem sets** will be due on **May 19th, May 26th, June 9th, and June 16th at 12:00 noon.**

- The **Midterm** will be held on **May 31st** during class time. **There will be no make-ups for the midterm exam**. If a student misses the midterm for a reason deemed acceptable by the instructor, the weight from the midterm will be transferred to the final exam, i.e. the final will account for 50% of the student's final grade. Appropriate documentation (e.g. a doctor's note) must be provided within 48 hours of the scheduled midterm date in order to transfer the weight from the midterm to the final exam.

- The **Final Exam** will take place **during the official exam period (June 22-24)** and will include the material covered during the **entire course**.

- The grade for the **Data Project** (40% in total) consists of the following components:

In-class Stata Exercise on **May 17th**	2.5%
In-class Stata Exercise on **May 19th**	2.5%
In-class Stata Exercise on **May 24th**	2.5%
Report based on Stata Exercise, due **May 27th**	5.0%
Project Topic, due on **June 3rd**	2.5%
Project Draft, due on **June 10th**	2.5%
Final Submission, due on **June 20th**	22.5%

- Full details on each component of the Data Project will be provided separately.

Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests

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.) **Students may ask for their exam to be re-graded, but note that the whole exam will be re-graded (not just specific questions), so that the grade may end up going up or down.**

Assignment Submission: Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for each assignment.

Lateness Penalty: Assignments submitted later than the due date will not be accepted. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Course Instructor, only when accompanied by supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor's letter). Project Outlines submitted after the due dates will receive zero marks. The penalties for late submission of the final Data Project are detailed in a separate document.

Missed Tests: There will be no make-ups for the midterm exam. If a student misses the midterm for a reason deemed acceptable by the instructor, the weight from the midterm will be transferred to the final exam. Appropriate documentation (e.g. doctor's note) must be provided to the instructor **within 48 hours** of the scheduled exam date in order to transfer the weight from the midterm to the final exam.

A deferral for the **final exam** will be granted only for medical reasons. In such cases students should submit a deferred exam application **within 48 hours of the exam time** together with the supporting documents (attending physician's statement) to the Economics Department. The date and time of the deferred exam will be set at a later date. Students who may require further extensions or accommodation will have to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

Important Course Information for Students

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents): http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/
- Student Rights & Responsibilities
- Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

In this course, we strive to maintain **academic integrity** to the highest extent possible. Please familiarize yourself with the meaning of academic integrity by completing SPARK's Academic Integrity module at the beginning of the course. Breaches of academic integrity range from cheating to plagiarism (i.e., the improper crediting of another's work, the representation of another's ideas as your own, etc.). All instances of academic dishonesty in this course will be reported to the appropriate university authorities, and can be punishable according to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty.

Private Third-Party Tutoring Companies, Academic Honesty and Support Resources

Many private, third-party tutoring companies advertise their services to YorkU students. One way you can help eliminate these advertisements is by changing your eClass profile settings to private (see instructions below). Some of these private companies claim to be affiliated with, or recognized and supported by, York University. Some also claim to help you by providing you with quiz and test answers,

suggesting that this practice is safe and permitted by York. These claims are **not** true. York University has not officially recognized or endorsed any third-party tutoring service. When you are provided with quiz, test and exam answers, you run the risk of violating the **university's academic honesty policy**. Students have been caught using these services to cheat and gain unfair advantage over honest students. The cheating students and "tutors" have received academic dishonesty punishments ranging from failing courses, to being expelled, to losing their YorkU degrees. Officially supported resources to help students learn course material will be provided by YorkU officials, such as your professors and your department. These services are offered at no cost to you as a student. Your professor will likely provide weekly office help hours to meet with students and if you are a first- or second-year student and would like help with course material, make sure you join one of our weekly **Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS)**. If you require help with any of your numeracy-related courses that involve math, statistics or Excel, drop in online to meet with one of our peer tutors at the **Student Numeracy Assistance Centre at Keele (SNACK)**. If you are ever unsure of whether a resource is allowable or endorsed by YorkU, please feel free to email the Department of Economics at lapsecon@yorku.ca and they would be happy let you know.

To hide your email address in eClass: Step1: Click your name on the top-right of the eClass website, then click "Profile" on the drop-down menu; Step 2: Under "User details" click "Edit profile"; Step 3: From the "Email display" drop-down menu choose "Hide my email address from non-privileged users"; Step 4: Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the "Update profile" button.

Course Add/Drop Deadlines

Last date to add a course **without permission** of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	May 13
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	May 20
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	June 6
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a "W" on transcript – see note below)	**June 7 – June 20**

***Policy and Guidelines on Withdrawing from Course:**
http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/withdrawn-from-course-w-policy-and-guidelines/

Course Outline and Approximate Schedule
The following is a guide to the lecture schedule, time permitting.
Exact dates and coverage may vary.

Date	Topics	Key Reading *(Detailed Reading List on Course Website)*	Deadline
May 10	Introduction	BGLR ch 1	
May 12	Labour Supply	BGLR ch 2	
May 17	Labour Supply and Public Policy	BGLR ch 3	Stata in-class Exercise 1
May 19	Labour Demand	BGLR ch 5	Problem Set 1 due May 19; Stata in-class Exercise 2
May 24	Labour Market Equilibrium	BGLR ch 7	Stata in-class Exercise 3
May 26	Wage Inequality	BGLR ch 10; Acemoglu and Autor (2011)	Problem Set 2 due May 26; Report based on Stata Exercise due May 27
May 31	**Midterm** + Data Project Session		
June 2	Unemployment Patterns; Job and Worker Flows	BGLR ch 16; CCZ ch 9.1	Project Topic due June 3
June 7	Job Search	BGLR ch 17; CCZ ch 5	
June 9	Equilibrium Search and Matching Model	CCZ ch 9.3	Problem Set 3 due June 9; Project Draft due June 10
June 14	Minimum Wages	BGLR ch 7, CCZ ch 12.2	
June 16	Overflow and Review		Problem Set 4 due June 16; Data Project due June 20