

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

Course Instructor

Name: Matias Cortes
Office: 1088 Vari Hall
Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:45-10:45am, or by appointment
Email: gmcortes@yorku.ca

Lecture Time and Location

Time: Tuesdays 11:30am-2:30pm
Location: FC 106

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 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 various 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 data report.

Course Text / Readings

The main (required) text for the course is **Benjamin, Gunderson, Lemieux, Riddell, and Schirle, *Labour Market Economics*, 9th edition** (abbreviated **BGLRS** below).

Some of the topics we will cover will be based on **Cahuc, Carcillo, and Zylberberg, *Labor Economics*, 2nd 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 eClass. 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.

Technological Requirements

This writing course includes a **Data Project**, which requires you to have your **own laptop** and to use the software **Stata**. A 6-month student license for Stata/BE can be purchased for \$48 USD from <https://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/profplus/student-pricing/>. Other versions of Stata are of course also acceptable.

You must also register for an IPUMS-CPS account by following the "Apply for access" link that appears here: <https://cps.ipums.org/cps-action/menu>, and completing the application form.

Evaluation

The breakdown of the course grade is as follows:

Problem Sets (4 in total, 2.5% of the final grade each)	10.0%
Midterm Exam	22.5%
Final Exam	22.5%
Data Project	45.0%

- The **Problem Sets** will be due on **Sep 27, Oct 18, Nov 8 and Nov 29 at 11:00am**. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**
- The **Midterm** will be held on **Oct 25** during class time. If a student misses the Midterm, **appropriate documentation (e.g. a doctor's note) must be provided within 48 hours of the scheduled Midterm date**; otherwise the student will miss all of the Midterm marks. If the reason for missing the Midterm is deemed to be acceptable by the instructor, the student will be allowed to write a Final Exam that will account for 45% of their overall course grade. Note that this Final Exam may be different from the one written by the rest of the class.
- The **Final Exam** will take place **during the official exam period (Dec 8-23)**.
- Full details of the assessment criteria for the **Data Project** will be provided on eClass.

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.)

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), and only for the final submission of the Data Project Report. Other assignment components will **not** be accepted after the due date.

Missed Tests: If a student misses the **Midterm Exam**, appropriate documentation (e.g. a doctor's note) must be provided **within 48 hours of the scheduled exam time**; otherwise the student will miss all of the Midterm marks. If the reason for missing the Midterm is deemed to be acceptable by the instructor, the student will be allowed to write a Final Exam that will account for 45% of their overall course grade. Note that this Final Exam may be different from the one written by the rest of the class.

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

Information is available at <https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/2022-2023/fall-winter>.

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 (<i>Detailed Reading List on Course Website</i>)	Deadline
Sep 13	Introduction, Labour Supply	BGLRS ch 1, ch 2	
Sep 20	Labour Supply (cont'd)		<i>Data Project: Stata Exercise 1</i>
Sep 27	Labour Demand	BGLRS ch 5	<i>Data Project: Stata Exercise 2</i> <i>Course Content: Problem Set 1</i>
Oct 4	Labour Market Equilibrium	BGLRS ch 7	<i>Data Project: Stata Exercise 3</i>
Oct 11	<i>Reading Week – No Class</i>		
Oct 18	Wage Inequality	BGLRS ch 10; Acemoglu and Autor (2011)	<i>Data Project: Report based on Stata Exercise</i> <i>Course Content: Problem Set 2</i>
Oct 25	Midterm + Data Project Support		<i>Data Project: Topic Choice</i>
Nov 1	Unemployment Patterns; Job and Worker Flows	BGLRS ch 16; CCZ ch 9.1	
Nov 8	Job Search	BGLRS ch 17; CCZ ch 5	<i>Course Content: Problem Set 3</i>
Nov 15	Equilibrium Search and Matching Model	CCZ ch 9.3	<i>Data Project: Preliminary Data Analysis</i>
Nov 22	Equilibrium Search and Matching Model (cont'd)		
Nov 29	Minimum Wages	BGLRS ch 7; CCZ ch 12.2	<i>Course Content: Problem Set 4</i>
Dec 6	Overflow and Review		<i>Data Project: Final Report</i>