

**AP/ECON 3249 Labour Economics (Writing)**  
**Section A**  
**Fall 2024**  
**Department of Economics**  
**Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies**  
**York University**

**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: Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm, or by appointment  
Email: gmccortes@yorku.ca

**Lecture Time and Location**

Tuesdays 11:30am-2:30pm  
HNE 037

**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*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition** (abbreviated **BGLRS** below).

Some of the topics we will cover will be based on **Cahuc, Garcillo, and Zylberberg, *Labor Economics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

If, due to financial hardship, you are unable to purchase a Stata license, please let me know.

## Evaluation

The breakdown of the course grade is as follows (with the exception noted below):

<b>Problem Sets</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Data Project</b>	<b>45%</b>

- **Exception:** Students must obtain a grade of **at least 25/100 on the Final Exam** in order to pass the course. Students who obtain less than 25/100 on the Final Exam will have their grade capped at an E.
- The due dates for the **Problem Sets** will be announced in class. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**
- The **Final Exam** will take place **during the official exam period (December 5-20)**.
- 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, including the Problem Sets and the components related to the Data Project, 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).

**Missed Tests:** A deferral for the Final Exam will be granted only for medical reasons. In such cases, students should submit a deferred exam application through the following website:

<https://www.yorku.ca/laps/econ/undergraduate-programs/academic-resources/department-policies/deferred-standing/>

The form must be completed **within 48 hours of the exam time**. 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 Information for Students

Academic integrity is a fundamental and important value of York University. To maintain a fair and honest learning environment, students in this course are responsible for understanding and upholding academic integrity in all of their academic activities. To better understand expectations, familiarize yourself with the [Senate Policy on Academic Conduct](#). To learn more about how to demonstrate academic integrity in your courses and to access related resources and support, visit the [Academic Integrity website](#).

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 provide weekly office help hours to meet with students. **If you require help with numeracy-related skills that involve math, statistics, or Stata, you can meet with one of the 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](mailto:lapsecon@yorku.ca) and they would be happy let you know.

**To hide your email address in eClass:** Step 1: 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/2024-2025/fall-winter>

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Key Reading</b>
Sep 10	Introduction, Labour Supply	BGLRS ch 1
Sep 17	Labour Supply (cont'd) <i>Stata In-Class Exercise 1</i>	BGLRS ch 2
Sep 24	Labour Demand <i>Stata In-Class Exercise 2</i>	BGLRS ch 5
Oct 1	Labour Demand (cont'd) <i>Stata In-Class Exercise 3</i>	BGLRS ch 5
Oct 8	Labour Market Equilibrium	BGLRS ch 7
Oct 15	<b>Reading Week (no lecture)</b>	
Oct 22	Monopsony and Minimum Wages	BGLRS ch 7
Oct 29	Wage Inequality	BGLRS ch 10; Acemoglu and Autor (2011)
Nov 5	Unemployment Patterns; Job and Worker Flows	BGLRS ch 16; CCZ ch 9.1
Nov 12	Job Search	BGLRS ch 17; CCZ ch 5
Nov 19	Equilibrium Search and Matching Model	CCZ ch 9.3
Nov 26	Equilibrium Search and Matching Model (cont'd)	CCZ ch 9.3
Dec 3	Overflow and Review	