

**Department of Economics
Carleton University**

ECON 3360A – Labour Economics

Instructor: Dr. Xiaoyi Yan

2020 Winter

Email: cuLearn

Lectures: Tuesdays, 18:05–20:55

Office: B-850 Loeb

Classroom: SA 417

Phone: 613-520-2600 x 1751

Office Hours: Tuesdays 5:30-6:00pm or by app't

Prerequisites

Prerequisites: ECON 1001 and ECON 1002, or ECON 1000 or FYSM 1003, as outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar. Students who believe they have taken a similar background course or courses from another university must provide appropriate documentation to the Department of Economics Undergraduate Administrator, Amanda Wright.

Precludes additional credit for ECON 3506 (no longer offered). Credit will not be given if taken concurrently with or after ECON 4305 (no longer offered) or ECON 4306 (no longer offered) or ECON 4360.

Objective

The course introduces basic principles of labour economics including market, institutions and socio-economic drivers. Topics of interest are: technology and labour demand, wage and labour supply, labour market outcomes such as human capital, wage structure, market discrimination, female labour-force entry, wage determination, wage-price spiral, household labour supply, and labour market institutions such as organized labour and unions.

Learning outcome:

By the end of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- Describe the fundamental concepts and basic theories of labour economics
- Apply analytical tools to explore relevant questions
- Critically appreciate the framework of labour market economics
- Converse about current issues in labour economics

Evaluation

Each student's final grade in this course will be calculated as a weighted average of scores for the following assessment instruments:

Assignment 1: Problem set	10%	Posted: Jan 21	Due: Jan 28 in class
Mid-term exam (2 hours)	25%	Feb 11	
Assignment 2: Policy paper	10%	Posted: Feb 4	Due: Mar 3 in class
Assignment 3: Problem set	10%	Posted: Mar 10	Due: Mar 17 in class
Final exam	45%	During the University final exam period	
Total	100%		

The assignment received after the due dates will be granted a grade of zero.

The mid-term exam will take place in class in the week before the reading week. Students who can document a compelling reason for missing the mid-term examination will be excused and their final grade will be based on their performance in the rest of the course—i.e., the weight of each of the remaining evaluation instruments will rise by a factor of $100/(100-25)$ (e.g., the final examination weight will become $45\% \times 100/75 = 60\%$). Students *must* inform the instructor with proof of such an absence in advance, if possible.

The final exam (3 hours) will take place during the final examination period at a time and place set by the University.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean. Application to write a deferred final examination must be made at the Registrar's Office.

Textbook and Readings

Labour Market Economics, 8th Edition, Benjamin, Gunderson, Lemieux and Riddell, McGraw Hill Education, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-1-25-903083-3 ISBN-10: 1-25-903083-0

Wooley (1993) "The Feminist Challenge to Neoclassical Economics", Cambridge Journal of Economics, 17(4), pp485-500

Borjas (1994) "The Economics of Immigration", Journal of Economic Literature, XXXII (December 1994), pp1667-1717

Course Outline: Topics and Readings

The instructor will cover the most important subjects in class. Students are responsible for all materials in the chapters/readings covered in lectures and are encouraged to read beyond the textbook about the subjects.

Part I:	Labour Supply and Demand	
Week 1-5	Introduction, labour supply and demand	Chapters 1-6
Week 6	Mid-term exam (2 hours)	
Week 7	Winter break	
Part II:	Wages and Markets	
Week 8-11	Wage determination, employment, labour market outcome	Chapters 7-13
Part III:	Organized Labour and Labour Market Impact	
Week 12-14	Unions, wage and nonwage outcomes, unemployment	Chapter 14-17

Final exam (3 hours) scheduled by the University during the final examination period

Academic Accommodation

Students needing special academic accommodations are required to contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) to complete the necessary letters of accommodation. The student must make an appointment to discuss their needs at least two weeks prior to the exams. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline of submitting completed forms to the PMC for University-scheduled examinations. For more information, please see students.carleton.ca/course-outline/.

For religious and special needs such as pregnancy, students should consult with the instructor and equity services (ext. 5622 or www.carleton.ca/equity).

Plagiarism

Please be aware that plagiarism is a serious offence at Carleton and should be recognized and avoided. For further information on how to do so, please see “Pammett on Plagiarism and Paraphrasing” at www.carleton.ca/economics/courses/writing-preliminaries.

Intellectual Property

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