LABOUR ECONOMICS - BARGAINING
ECONOMICS 2156A-001
Department of Economics
Western University
Course Outline

Andrew Agopsowicz (aagopsow@uwo.ca)  May 2014
Office: 4080 SSC
Phone: 661-2111 ext 85242
Course meets: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9:30 - 11:30, SSC-3006
Office Hours: TBA
Course website: https://owl.uwo.ca/portal
Undergraduate Enquiries: 519-661-3507 SSC 4075 econugrd@uwo.ca

Registration
You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered
in a course, the Department will not release any of your marks until your registration is corrected.
You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website at https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counsellor immediately.

Prerequisite Note
The prerequisites for this course are Economics 1021A/B and 1022A/B; or,
Economics 1020; or, Economics 2001A/B
You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and
that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis
for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time
and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed.

If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the
course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not
only help protect your academic record, but will ensure spaces become available for students who
require the course in question for graduation.

Course Objectives
This course provides an introduction to labour economics with a focus on bargaining theory and its
application for analyzing the effects of unionization on labour market outcomes. We will learn to
apply the basic neoclassical theory of the labour market to explain a number of important empirical
observations. Furthermore, we will see how we can use the theory to make predictions about how
labour market outcomes might change when the underlying conditions change.

Course Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

• be able to analyze the neoclassical models of labour supply and demand;
• be able to interpret empirical evidence within the context of the theory derived in class;
• be able to identify theories of why wages differ across individuals;
• have an understanding of bargaining theory and its applications for analyzing the interaction of unions and employers;
• be able to recall recent trends in unionization in Canada;

Course Outline (tentative schedule in brackets)
This course will begin by analyzing the basic neoclassical models of labour supply and demand (Chapters 1-6). These models provide a framework for understanding the incentives of workers and firms as they interact in the labour market. (weeks 1-2)

Next we will discuss theories for why the earnings of workers might differ from each other. These include differences in human capital (chapter 9), compensating wage differentials (chapter 8) and wage discrimination (chapter 10). (week 3)

Next we will introduce bargaining theory to analyze how two groups behave when attempting to split a surplus. (week 4)

Finally, we will study the effects of unionization on the labour market using the tools developed above (chapters 14-16). (week 5-6)

Tentatively, we will spend 2/3 of the class time on developing the theory, and the last 1/3 on the effects of unionization on the labour market.

Textbook

Grading
There will be one midterm worth 25%, 5 weekly assignments worth 5% each (total 25%) and a final exam worth 50%. 
Please Note

Remember that the University expects all students to take responsibility for their own academic Programs. Also remember to check your registration to make sure you are enrolled in the correct courses.

1. Guidelines and policies for the Faculty of Social Science and the Department of Economics are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca.


3. **Cheating as an academic offence:** Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat”. The Department of Economics treats cheating incidents very seriously and will investigate any suspect behaviour. Students found guilty will incur penalties that could include a failing grade or being barred from future registration in other economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as a notation on your official academic transcript, suspension or expulsion.

4. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge it by using quotation marks where appropriate and referencing with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the current UWO Academic Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2013/pg113.html).

   The University of Western Ontario uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form. Those found guilty will have penalties imposed as noted in point 3.

5. It is Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students are responsible for submitting assignments in class or to the instructor during office hours.

6. When appealing a mark, students should refer to the University’s Procedures in the current UWO Academic Calendar (http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2013/pg112.html). Please note the relevant deadlines.

   The Department will not consider any appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter first with your instructor. If after this discussion you remain dissatisfied with a grade or other decision, you may proceed with a written appeal (e-mails are not acceptable) to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for your appeal. A useful form and checklist is provided at http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals
7. Systematic adjustments of a class grade distribution (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The fact that grades have been adjusted is not grounds for an appeal.

8. Note the following add and drop deadlines:

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<tr>
<th>Dates for adding courses in the summer:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to add a Distance Studies Course</td>
<td>Friday, May 9, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to add an Intersession Course:</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 13, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to add a first term half course Summer Evening:</td>
<td>Friday, May 9, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to add a second term half course Summer Evening:</td>
<td>Friday, June 20, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<th>Dates for dropping Courses in the summer:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to drop a Distance Studies Course</td>
<td>Friday, May 30, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to drop an Intersession Course:</td>
<td>Thursday, May 22, 2014</td>
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<td>Last day to drop a first term half course Summer Evening:</td>
<td>Friday, May 16, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to drop a second term half course Summer Evening:</td>
<td>Friday, June 27, 2014</td>
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9. Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is not an excuse for a make-up. This rule applies to all mid-term tests and final exams in the Department of Economics.

**Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations**

*Academic Accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. You must demonstrate by documentation that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered.*

If you decide to write a test or an examination, you must be prepared to accept the mark you earn. Rewriting tests or examinations, or having the value of the test or examination reweighted on a retroactive basis, is not permitted. Book airline flights after you know the dates of your final examinations. Airline flights must not conflict with test or final exams.

If you are requesting a makeup test for a midterm or a final examination, unless medically incapable, notify your instructor by email or phone, preferably prior to the scheduled date of the test, but definitely within **24 hours** of the date of the test or exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of a request for academic accommodation or result in a grade of zero. Set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet personally with your instructor. If the instructor is not available, you may send an email message, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca (Social Science Room 4075). **Notifying your instructor of a missed test or exam does not automatically entitle you to a makeup test.**

Students who seek a makeup test or examination must provide medical or other relevant verification that their absence from a regularly scheduled test or examination is beyond their control. Documentation must support your reasons. Medical documentation should be given to the Academic Counselling Office of your *home* Faculty as soon as possible (preferably within **24 hours of the test**) if you know you may not be able to write your final examination on the scheduled day and time. Failure to follow this procedure, or to provide supporting
documentation, may result in denial of a request for academic accommodation or result in a grade of zero. If your documentation is not acceptable, you will be given a zero for the missed test.

For personal illness, if you consult Student Health Services regarding your illness or personal problem, you should request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If you were seen by an off-campus doctor, obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of your visit. The off-campus medical certificate form must be used and can be found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf. Notes stating "For Medical Reasons" are not considered sufficient.

For any other circumstances, if you are not sure what documentation to provide, ask your Academic Counselor. If your documentation is judged sufficient, the academic counselor will issue a Recommendation for a Special Examination (a single form for midterms or a triple color form for final examinations). Once you have this form, contact your instructor ASAP to make arrangements. Even if approved from your home faculty Academic Counsellor, there is no guarantee that you will be allowed to write the makeup test and exam.

For final examinations, you need permission from your home Faculty Counsellor, your instructor, and the Department Chair. Failure to follow this procedure may result in an examination grade of zero. You must ensure that the Special Examination form has been signed by the instructor and Department Chair and that the form is returned to the Academic Counseling Office for approval without delay. Make-up final examinations, if permitted, will be written within one month of the end of the exam period.

Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

Information about the Faculty of Social Science’s policies regarding academic accommodation is found on its website at http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp or in Social Science Room 2105. Your “Academic Rights and Responsibilities” are also outlined in the current UWO Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2013/pg111.html. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated procedures.

Policy Regarding Class Attendance

If your instructor views your class attendance as unsatisfactory, you can be debarred from writing the final examination. If there is intent to make use of this University policy, you will be notified in writing.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services

If you or someone you know is experiencing emotional/mental distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for more information and a complete list of resources, as well as how to obtain help.