

LABOUR ECONOMICS - BARGAINING
ECONOMICS EC2156A-001
Department of Economics
Western University

September 2019

General Information:

Instructor: Deanna Walker

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Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 10:30-11:30 a.m. in 4035 SSC

Classroom meeting time(s) & location:

Tuesdays 8:30-10:30 a.m. and Thursdays 8:30-9:30 a.m. in TC 141

Course website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 or SSC Room 4075 or econugrd@uwo.ca

Registration:

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in this 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://student.uwo.ca>. If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counsellor immediately.

Prerequisite Note:

The prerequisite(s) for this course is (are) [Economics 1021A/B](#) and [Economics 1022A/B](#), or [Economics 2001A/B](#).

Antirequisite(s): [Economics 3344A/B](#) and [Economics 3345A/B](#).

Prerequisite(s) for your course can be found in the Western Calendar at:

<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/Courses.cfm?Subject=ECONOMIC&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID>

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken any anti-requisite courses. 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 that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Course Objectives:

This course investigates economic and legal aspects of labour relations, including wage and price controls, labour law, the history and origin of the trade union movement, the economics of trade unions, and the relationship between unions, firms and governments. Discussion of these topics will follow from empirical observations and economic models of the labour market, unions and bargaining.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Students will recognize the rationales and effects of various laws and government interventions in the labour market.
- Students will apply the assumptions and predictions of basic labour market and union models in order to explain related policy implications in terms of economic theory.
- Students will interpret issues arising in labour relations in order to evaluate outcomes of hypothetical, historical, and contemporary situations.

Textbook(s):

Benjamin, Gunderson, Lemieux, Riddell, Labour Market Economics, 8th edition, McGrawHill Ryerson, 2017

Supplemental material and other references will be posted on OWL throughout the term.

Expectations:

Students are expected to complete midterm and final examinations, as well as preparing assigned homework and readings and contributing to discussions and giving peer feedback.

Lectures are an integral part of this course and attendance is mandatory. According to university policy, any student who is absent too frequently in the opinion of the instructor may be debarred from the final exam after due warning has been given (see the Policy Regarding Class Attendance in the “Please Note” section below, the Attendance Regulations for Examinations in the Academic Calendar).

Students are expected to conduct themselves respectfully, arriving on time and refraining from use of technology (laptops, cell phones) or other disruptive behaviour in the classroom.

Grading:

Homework and readings will also be assigned throughout the term. Students will be required to submit homework when requested and to contribute to discussion of readings and give peer feedback on designated days. Performance on homework and discussion of readings will each account for 8% of the course grade.

The midterm, tentatively scheduled for October 22, will account for 42% of the course grade.

The final exam, to be scheduled by the Registrar, will account for 42% of the course grade.

Only non-programmable, non-graphing calculators will be permitted during exams. Cell phone possession is prohibited, and will also be interpreted as cheating.

Missed midterms will be graded as zero. If under extenuating circumstances accommodation is granted, the weight of the missed midterm will be shifted to the final exam, and the student’s final exam coverage, length and/or format may be altered. These changes are not intended to alter the level of difficulty of the exam, only to compensate for the lack of evaluation through the standard scheme.

Please consult with the instructor immediately if you are seeking accommodation for any situation which may be ongoing, since credit for this course cannot be obtained without maintaining satisfactory attendance throughout the term, as specified above.

Topics Covered and Readings:

Labour Market Model

Consumer choice and labour supply (Ch 2, 3)

Labour demand (Ch 5, 6)

Employment and wages (Ch 1, 7, 8, 10, 13)

Labour law and policies (Chapter 3, 7, 8)

Unions

Extent of unionization (Chapter 14)

Bargaining (Chapter 14)

Modelling unions (Chapter 14)

Impact of unions (Chapter 15, 16)

The student should note that these readings and any supplementary readings posted to OWL are not suitable to replace lectures. The above outline is tentative. The order of topics may change and/or topics may be added or deleted as the course progresses. Some topics may also be given more attention than others.

Copyright:

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational purposes. Students may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without written consent.

Please Note
Department Policies for 2019-2020

Remember that the University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should also check their registration to ensure they 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>.
2. Students must familiarize themselves with the “Rules of Conduct for Examinations”
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/administration.pdf.
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 behavior. 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 an official academic transcript, suspension or expulsion.
4. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. When taking an idea/passage from another author, it must be acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate and referenced with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is an academic offence (see Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Western Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

Western University uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to electronically submit their work. Those found guilty will be penalized as noted in point 3.

5. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments in class or to the instructor during office hours.
6. When appealing a mark, students should refer to the Student Academic Appeals section in the current Western Academic Calendar at:
http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14

Please note the relevant deadlines.

The Department will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter with the instructor first. Students who remain dissatisfied with the outcome may proceed with a written appeal (e-mails are not acceptable) to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for their appeal. A 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:

Deadline to <u>add</u> a first term half course:	Friday September 13, 2019
Deadline to <u>drop</u> a first term half course:	Tuesday November 12, 2019
9. Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to midterm and final exams in the Department of Economics.

Policy on Tests, Final Exams and on Missed Academic Responsibilities

Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or retroactive reweighting of marks, is **not** permitted. Students must book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted; travel is not an acceptable excuse for absence from a final exam.

Students who are temporarily unable to meet academic requirements due to extenuating circumstances can follow Western University procedures to request academic consideration through the following routes:

- a) Submit a Self-Reported Absence form if the conditions for submission are met (e.g., only for exams or assessments worth 30% or less of the course mark; not applicable to final exams; maximum 2 self-reported absences per academic year; see [link](#) for full list of conditions and info).

If the conditions for submission of a Self-Reported Absence form are not met, then:

- b) For medical absences, submit a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner along with a request for academic consideration to Academic Counselling in the student's home Faculty (see [link](#) for full info) ; or
- c) For non-medical absences (e.g., religious or compassionate), submit appropriate documentation to Academic Counselling in the student's home Faculty (see [link](#) for full info).

It is strongly recommended that students notify their instructors as soon as possible. University policy is that students **must** communicate with their instructors no later than **24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence. Failure to follow University policy and procedures may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. Students should also set up an appointment to meet with their instructor as soon as possible. If the instructor is not available, send an email message, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca.

Note: Academic consideration is not normally intended for long-term, recurring absences, an existing disability, or high levels of stress related to academic performance. In such cases, students should consult their academic counsellor. See [link](#) for full information. In all cases, if the documentation submitted to request academic consideration is not acceptable, students will receive a grade of zero for the missed test, exam, or assignment.

For full information about Western University's policies and procedures for student absences and requests for academic consideration, please visit this [link](#).

Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

The Faculty of Social Science's policies regarding academic accommodation is found at http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html.

"Academic Rights and Responsibilities" are also outlined in the Western Calendar at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>. 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 the instructor deems a student's class attendance as unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. If there is intent to make use of this University policy, the student will be notified in writing.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services

Students under emotional/mental distress should visit http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.