ECONOMICS OF TRADE UNIONS AND LABOUR ECONOMICS EC2156A-650 Department of Economics Western University

September 2024

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*Subject line must include "2156" and be sent from your uwo.ca address. I send class		
messages by email@westernu.brightspace.com to your uwo.ca address.		
See email policy on OWL.		
Office hours:	Mondays 9:30-11:30am ET online by Zoom.	
Delivery mode:	Online course. MIDTERMS AND EXAMS WILL BE IN-PERSON.	
	Content will be delivered asynchronously online.	
Course website:	https://westernu.brightspace.com/	

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 <u>https://student.uwo.ca</u>. If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counsellor immediately.

Prerequisite/Antirequisite Note:

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

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 Description:

The economic and legal aspects of labour relations will be approached under some or all of the following headings: the history and origin of the trade union movement, the economics of trade unions, labour law, wage/price controls and the relationship of unions, firms and governments.

Course Objectives and Expectations:

The purpose of this course is not merely to convey information on designated topics, it is intended to sharpen a student's logical accuracy and quality of thought through the process. The discipline and accountability required increase student maturity.

Throughout the course, students are expected to work precisely with full attention to detail, to formulate independent and individual thought, and to work from their own minds.

A. Upon registration, students will carefully review this syllabus and the "Welcome! Start Here" tab on OWL. Students are responsible for all information found here and on the OWL website.

B. Students are expected to have competence in prerequisite topics, and to independently follow instructions and submit work with accuracy. The student bears all responsibility for errors, clerical or otherwise. Failure to abide by instructions given may also result in penalties.

C. Students are expected to work consistently throughout the term. A student who has not maintained satisfactory engagement with the course will not be permitted to write the final exam. (See the Policy Regarding Class Attendance and Engagement in the Please Note appendix to this course outline, and also the university's Attendance Regulations for Examinations.)

D. Students are responsible at all times for clear articulation and reading comprehension. Work which shows a lack of proficiency in English may either be failed or, at the discretion of the instructor, returned to the student for revision to a literate level.

E. In fairness to students working honestly, I pursue as cheating any dishonest behaviour to gain academic advantage, without warning or second chances. Students will be held to the <u>Student</u> <u>Code of Conduct</u> (see also **Professionalism, Privacy, and Copyright** below).

All submissions in this course are required to be your own, individual and original work; created by yourself, from your own thoughts, in your own words. Exams and all coursework are not collaborative.

Ideas or work that are not your own must not be incorporated unless your use is minor, clearly distinguished as not yours, and properly acknowledged. **Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, will be treated as a scholastic offence.** A helpful tutorial with quizzes for self-testing is available at http://lib.usm.edu/plagiarism_tutorial.html. Assessments in this course may be subject to Turnitin analysis.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Students will recognize the rationales and effects of union interventions in the labour market as well as various government and legislative influences.
- Students will apply the assumptions and predictions of basic labour market and union models using active reasoning in order to make and explain outcome predictions and related policy implications in terms of economic theory.
- Students will interpret issues arising in labour relations in order to evaluate outcomes in hypothetical, historical, and/or contemporary situations.
- In all content and meta-content of this course, students will develop increased independence and responsibility locating and examining information, interpreting and integrating that information, and determining and executing appropriate responses to that information.

Textbooks:

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

Benjamin, Gunderson, Lemieux, Riddell, labour Market Economics, 9th edition, McGrawHill Ryerson, 2021

Either edition is suitable. Supplemental material and other references will be posted on OWL.

Topics Covered and Relevant Chapters:

Unit 1: Unions and the Labour Market (Ch 1, 8)

- Competitive labour market model and Neoclassical predictions
- Special considerations about labour markets and function of the wage rate
- Do workers need union empowerment?

Unit 2: Labour Market Outcomes (Ch 5, 7)

- Competitive and Monopsonistic demand for labour
- Union effects on market outcomes under different market structures
- Can government regulation achieve worker objectives without unions?

Unit 3: Models of Union Behaviour and Bargaining (Ch 14, 14A)

- Overview of unions in Canada
- Union preferences what do workers care about?
- Models of contract determination

Unit 4: Impact of Unions (Ch 15)

- Wage differentials and effects of unions across sectors
- How unions affect non-wage outcomes

Unit 5: Labour Supply (Ch 2)

- Participation and hours-of-work decision, special constraints
- Union influences on individual and market labour supply

Unit 6: Labour Demand (Ch 5, 6)

- Demand for labour in the presence of unions
- Labour and product market structures
- Quasi-fixed costs and compensation negotiation

The above list is tentative and may be modified as the course progresses.

Assessments and Grading:

Every two weeks students will cover a new unit. Within each unit students must complete accompanying homework. Homework submissions will be due at the beginning of a week and will be accepted (with no penalty) until the end of that week (no submissions will be graded after that point). As such, any requests for academic consideration for missed homework will be denied.

Homework will account for 8% of the course grade. Keep in mind that consistent completion of work throughout the term is an essential requirement for admittance to the final exam (See part C in Course Objectives and Expectations).

The midterm, tentatively scheduled for November 2 from 1-3pm, will account for 46% of the course grade. No academic consideration can be granted for this midterm on the basis of any self-attested absence.

Only non-programmable, non-graphing calculators will be permitted during exams. Possession of electronic devices (cell phone, tablet, smart watch, or other) is prohibited and will also be interpreted as cheating.

The final exam, to be scheduled by the Registrar during the final examination period (December 9-22), will account for 46% of the course grade.

Missed coursework and/or examinations will be graded as zero. If under extenuating circumstances (and subject to the exclusions noted above) an absence is formally excused, a student may be offered a form of accommodation as deemed appropriate by the instructor. Such accommodation will take into account the particulars of the situation and may involve altering the weight, coverage, length and/or format of the student's coursework at the instructor's discretion for practical considerations and in order to properly represent the course coverage.

Students who miss any assessments must follow Western University's formal procedures. See the 'Please Note' appendix to this course outline.

Any required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com) Examination may be subject to remote proctoring. The exams and all coursework are not collaborative.

Professionalism, Privacy, and Copyright:

- Students are expected to follow the Student Code of Conduct.
- All lectures and course materials, including slides, presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational purposes only.
- Students may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, assessments, or any other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without the written consent of the instructor.
- Recordings (audio or video) are not permitted without explicit, written permission of the instructor. Permitted recordings may not be distributed or shared.
- Students may be required to take an academic integrity pledge before assessments

Technical Requirements:

Students are responsible at all times throughout the term for stable and reliable internet connection as well as compatible electronic devices and software.

You may be asked to submit work in pdf format. Unless otherwise specified, the following are all acceptable: work created by tablet, annotated pdf, a scan or photograph of written work converted to pdf.

Tips on How to be Successful in this Class:

This particular course offering has risk of some pitfalls if you are not careful. Students should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

• This course is <u>not</u> based on publisher test banks, multiple-choice understanding, or performing particular types of questions. This should affect how you choose approach the material from the beginning.

- This course is not forgiving of inattention to detail. Keep your mind alert and careful.
- I am not forgiving of academic misconduct. You who work with integrity should not be graded together with dishonest peers.

This course does give you opportunity to think about interesting and important social controversies, to experience more technical and flexible use of models, and to challenge yourself to personally grow and invest in developing stronger thinking skills.

You will get a grade at the end of the course, but what you get out of this course in terms of lasting outcomes will depend on what you choose to put in. Every student has their own situation. What will you consider a success?

PLEASE NOTE DEPARTMENT & UNIVERSITY POLICIES FOR FALL 2024

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, policies, and your academic rights and responsibilities are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at: <u>http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca</u>. Claiming that "you didn't know what to do" is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated policies and procedures.
- 2. A <u>new academic consideration and flexibility in assessment</u> policy is in effect starting September 2024. Students can miss one assessment per course per term without medical documentation. Faculty can designate one assessment per course for which students *cannot* self-attest.
- 3. Students must familiarize themselves with the "**Rules of Conduct for Examinations**" <u>http://</u> www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/administration.pdf.
- 4. 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 suspension or expulsion.
- 5. **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 <u>h t t p : // w e s t e r n c a l e n d a r . u w o . c a / P o l i c y P a g e s . c f m ?</u> Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Pag <u>e 20</u>).

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 4.

- 6. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments to the instructor.
- 7. Appeals: University policies and procedures for appealing a mark can be found in the Student Academic Appeals section in the current Western Academic Calendar at: <u>http://westerncalendarestern</u>

Department of Economics procedures for appealing a mark can be found here: <u>https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/</u><u>responsibilities_policies.html#appeals</u>. 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 to submit an appeal to <u>econugrd@uwo.ca</u>. Please follow the instructions and use the appeal form shown in the above link.

8. 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.

9. ADD AND DROP DEADLINES:

- Deadline to ADD first term full or half course:	Fri, Sept 13, 2024
- Deadline to DROP/WITHDRAW first term full or half course:	Mon, Dec 2, 2024

Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations

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.

Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

• Academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. Students must demonstrate by documentation that there are compelling medical or compassionate

grounds before academic accommodation will be considered. The Faculty of Social Science's policies on academic accommodation are found at <u>https://</u>counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html

- Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD, see http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities.
- **Rewriting Exams and Retroactive Reweighting are NOT Permitted:** 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 also book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted as they must not conflict with test or final exams.
- Unless medically incapable of doing so, students must notify their instructor prior to the test date or at least within **48 hours** when requesting a makeup exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. Students should also set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet with their instructor. If the instructor is not available, send an email message to the instructor, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca. Notifying instructors of a missed exam does not automatically entitle students to a makeup.
- For medical illnesses, students may consult Student Health Services and request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If assessed by an off-campus doctor, students must obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of the visit/assessment. Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is available here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf
- **Documentation for Accommodation:** Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons.
- Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence is available here: https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/probation_rtw/appeals.html
- **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give <u>reasonable notice in writing</u>, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the <u>Western Multicultural Calendar</u>.

Policy Regarding Class Attendance and Engagement: If the instructor deems a student's attendance or engagement in the class to be unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. Examples of unsatisfactory class engagement include frequent absences from an in-person or synchronous online class, lack of assignment submissions, and inadequate use of online course materials. Instructors who intend to make use of this policy will notify the student in advance.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services: Students under emotional/mental distress should visit <u>http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/</u> for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.

Statement on Remote Proctoring: While Western intends to hold most classes, mid-terms and finals in-person, the London-Middlesex Health unity may require western to teach in a remote format. If this occurs, all assessments will be done remotely and may involve the use of remote proctoring software (i.e., Proctorio, ProctorTrack). Instructors will provide information on the details should the need arise.

Guidelines for Essay Courses

Essay Courses¹

An essay course is a course in which the cumulative amount of written work, excluding written work in examinations, is at least 2,500 words (for a half course).

To pass an essay course, students must exhibit a minimal level of competence in essay writing in addition to comprehension of the course content.

English Language Proficiency for Assignment of Grades²

Written work that demonstrates a lack of English proficiency will be failed or, at the discretion of the instructor, returned to the student for revision to an acceptable level.

To foster competence in the English language, *all instructors will take English proficiency into account when marking*. This policy applies to all courses, not only essay courses.

Recycling of Assignments

Students are prohibited from handing in the same paper for two different courses. Doing so is considered a scholastic offence and will be subjected to academic penalties.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as "the act or an instance of copying or stealing another's words or ideas and attributing them as one's own."³

Plagiarism applies to ALL assignments including essays, reports, diagrams, statistical tables, and computer projects. Examples of plagiarism include:⁴

- Submitting someone else's work as your own
- Buying a paper from a mill, website or other source and submitting it as your own
- Copying sentences, phrases, paragraphs, or ideas from someone else's work, published or unpublished, without citing them
- Replacing selected words from a passage from someone else's work and using it as your own without citing them

¹From the UWO Academic Handbook. See http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/coursenumbering.pdf

² From the UWO Academic Handbook. See <u>http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/english.pdf</u>

³Excerpted from HC Black, *Black's Law Dictionary*, West Publishing Co., 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170.

⁴ Adapted from the San José State University Plagiarism Tutorial <u>https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism</u>

- Copying multimedia (graphics, audio, video, internet streams), computer programs, music compositions, graphs, or charts from someone else's work without citing them
- Piecing together phrases and ideas from a variety of sources without citing them
- Building on someone else's ideas or phrases without citing them

Plagiarism is a serious scholastic offence. Possible consequences of plagiarism include a mark of 0% on the assignment, a mark of 0% for the course, and expulsion from the university. Instructors may require students to submit written work electronically to <u>http://www.turnitin.com</u>. This is a service that assists instructors in detecting plagiarism.

Students seeking further guidance on avoiding plagiarism should consult their instructor. *Claiming ignorance is not an acceptable excuse.*

The key to avoiding plagiarism is to correctly cite reference sources.

Referencing and Citation Guidelines

The Economics Department has adopted the citation guidelines used in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010. You can find an online version on the Western Libraries website. Go to <u>https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/index.html</u> and click on 'style guides'. For off-campus access, use the *OffCampus Access* sign-in on the Library's homepage.

Economics papers often use the in-text **author-date** style of citations and references. Details and examples of this style are shown in chapter 15 of the *Chicago Manual of Style Online*. See also the handy "Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide" under Tools on the homepage.

In the body of an essay, in-text citations list the last names of the authors of the piece that are referenced, the year of publication, and, where relevant, page numbers. In-text citations refer the reader to a complete list of bibliographic references at the end of the essay. Papers that cite multiple works by the same author(s) with the same publication year should add a lower case letter after the date in both the in-text citation and References (e.g., 1993a and 1993b). In doing so, the in-text citation points the reader to the relevant work.

Examples of in-text citations:

Diamond (1981, 1982) and Mortensen (1982a, 1982b) find these externalities can cause an inefficient level of search activity...

The "new view of unemployment" which emerged during the 1970s emphasized the importance of turnover in the labour force and the brief duration of many employments spells (Hall 1970, 1972; Perry 1972; Marston 1976).

The primary objectives of the LMAS are "1. To provide measures of the dynamic...the Labour Force Survey" (Statistics Canada 1990, 5).

The list of references at the end of the essay should be titled References or Works Cited. It should provide complete bibliographic information about each source cited. In addition, students should also provide adequate referencing of any data sources. This can be done in a data appendix following the text of the paper and before the References.

Examples of the format and content of references can be found here: <u>https://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/ChicagoStyleAuthorDate.pdf</u> Writing an Economics Essay: Starting Points

To start a written assignment, review your professor's instructions. Read published work written by economists, which will give you examples of the structure and content of economics writing. Examples are readings in the course outline, journals, working papers, etc.

Two helpful sources that give information about how to write for economics are:

McCloskey, Dierdre N. 2000. *Economical Writing*, 2nd edition. Prospect Heights, Illinois: Waveland Press.

Greenlaw, Steven A. 2006. *Doing Economics: A Guide to Understanding and Doing Economic Research*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co.

Writing an Economics Essay: Resources

The **Resources Link** on Western University's Department of Economics website (<u>http://</u><u>economics.uwo.ca/resources/index.html</u>) provides a link to a list of sources for published and unpublished economic papers, articles, books, theses, government publications, data, etc. Western Libraries has a very useful economics resource page <u>https://guides.lib.uwo.ca/</u><u>economics</u>.

DB Weldon Library has a collection of bibliographies, indexes, handbooks, and periodicals in economics. Library holdings, the online library catalogue, and other resources are available electronically from the Western Libraries Homepage <u>http://www.lib.uwo.ca/</u>. These can be accessed off-campus with the OffCampus Proxy Server on the Library main page.

Students are encouraged to take a library orientation tour to learn about where sources of information are located both physically and online. Consult library staff for questions

The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics is the most comprehensive dictionary of economics in existence today. It is available online through the library catalogue, or in print in the Weldon's Reference section (call # HB 61.N49 2008 v. 1-8).

EconLit (*Economic Literature*) is an electronic bibliography of literature from 1969 to the present. It covers journals, collected articles, books, book reviews, dissertations, and working papers. It also provides citations, selected abstracts, and links to Western's full-text resources. Students can also print records by downloading marked records to a text file, sending marked records by email, or exporting them to a citation manager such as *Zotaro*. For a list of citation software, see <u>https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/citationmanagementsoftware.html</u>.

CANSIM (Canadian Socio-economic Information Management System) is Statistics Canada's database of time series data covering a variety of economic aspects of Canadian society. Access the database by a Title Search on the Western Library's Catalogue, or from the Library's list of Databases under "Research Tools" on the Library's homepage.

Western Undergraduate Economics Review (WUER)

The Department of Economics encourages students to consider submitting their essays to the *Western Undergraduate Economics Review*, a journal published annually by the Department that showcases student work in economics. For further information, please visit <u>http://</u>economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/undergraduate_economics_review.html.

Essay Prize in Economics

Two prizes may be awarded at the end of the academic year. One prize is for a student registered in a 2100 level course, and one is for a student registered in a 2200 or higher level course. Each prize is valued at \$500.

Students can only win the Essay Prize in Economics once. Economics 4400E is not eligible for this prize as it has its own essay award.

Instructors will nominate student essays for the prize. The essay should be submitted to the Undergraduate Coordinator for consideration by the Essay Prize Committee, which will decide the winner. The Essay Prize Committee will consist of the Undergraduate Program Director, WUER Faculty Advisor and one other faculty member. The decision of the Committee is final and cannot be appeal.

Papers will be judged on content, originality, use of references, spelling, and grammar.

The grade given to the paper will not influence the decision of the Essay Prize Committee as all comments by the original marker will be removed.

The deadlines for instructor submissions are:

Fall courses: January 1st Winter courses: May 1st The winner of the essay prize is encouraged to submit their paper to the Western Undergraduate Economics Review. Other appropriate papers may also be submitted.