

LABOUR ECONOMICS-BARGAINING  
ECONOMICS EC2156B-001  
Department of Economics  
Western University

January 2019

**General Information:**

**Instructor:** Glen Stirling  
**Office:** 4047 SSC  
**Phone:** 519-661-2111 ext. 85264  
**E-mail:** [stirling@uwo.ca](mailto:stirling@uwo.ca)  
**Office hours:** M, W, F 1:30- 2:20  
**Classroom meeting time(s) & location:**  
Monday, 11:30 – 12:30 Wednesday 11:30 – 1:30 SEB 1059

**Course website:** <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>  
**Undergraduate inquiries:** 519-661-3507 or SSC Room 4075 or [econugrd@uwo.ca](mailto: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 are  
**Economics 1021A/B and 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 Objectives:**

This course will first derive the basic labour market model and the outcomes predicted by that model. The supply of labour, for the individual and for the market will be derived, along with the factors that influence these supplies. Also we will derive the demand for labour under various market structures. It is the interaction of the demand and supply that generate the outcomes in the labour market.

We will develop reasons for wage differentials to exist among workers.

We will then examine the effects of unionization on the Labour market

## **Course Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will learn how to analyze supply and demand behaviour in labour markets and the consequences for wages and employment.
- Students will learn how to explain why wage differentials exist among workers.
- Students will learn how to analyze the effects of government policies, such as minimum wage laws, and health and safety laws on labour markets.
- Students will learn how unions affect the outcomes in labour markets.
- Students will be able to model how unions can effect in the outcomes for both unionized and nonunionized workers.

## **Textbook(s):**

Benjamin, D. Gunderson, M., Lemieux, T., Riddell, W.C., *Labour Market Economics*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, McGraw Hill-Ryerson, 2012

## **Grading:**

There will be two midterms worth 25% each, and a final exam worth 50%.

For missed exams with a good reason, there will be make ups offered during the following week.

Midterm #1 Wednesday, February 6, In Class 11:30 – 1:30

Midterm # 2 Wednesday, March 13, In Class 11:30 – 1:30

Final examination, Set by Registrar

## Course Outline

The Chapter references in the outline of topics below refer to the textbook. Some material in some chapters will be omitted from the course.

1. Introduction – Ch. 1
  - Demand and Supply
  - Equilibrium
  
2. Labour Supply – Ch. 2, 3, 4
  - Basic consumer Model
  - Basic Income – Leisure Model
  - Individual Supply Curve of Labour
  - Work Incentives
  - Labour supply over the Life cycle
  
3. Labour Demand – Ch. 5, 6
  - Labour Demand in the Short Run
  - Labour Demand in the Long Run
  - Elasticity
  - Quasi-fixed Costs
  
4. Equilibrium Relative Wages – Ch. 7, 8, 12
  - Monopsony
  - Minimum wage laws
  - Compensating Wage Differentials
  - Wage Discrimination
  
5. Unions – Ch. 14, 15, 16
  - Union Growth
  - Union models
  - Bargaining Theory

### Tentative Schedule

Introduction, Demand, Supply Equilibrium	Week 1
Labour Supply, Consumer Model, Labour-Leisure Choice Model	Week 2
Supply Curve, Work incentive, Life Cycle	Week 3-4
Labour Demand, Short run, Long Run	Week 5-6
Elasticity, Quasi-Fixed Costs	Week 7-8
Compensating Wages, Wage Discrimination	Week 9-10
Union Models	Week 11-13

**Please Note**  
**Department Policies for 2018-2019**

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](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](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](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](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 second term half course:	<b>Tuesday January 15, 2019</b>
Deadline to <u>drop</u> a second term half course:	<b>Thursday March 7, 2019</b>
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 Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations**

*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.*

Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or having their value reweighted on a retroactive basis, 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 **24 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, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at [econugrd@uwo.ca](mailto:econugrd@uwo.ca). **Notifying instructors of a missed exam does not automatically entitle students to a makeup.**

Students who seek a makeup exam must also provide supporting medical or other relevant documentation that their absence from a scheduled test or exam is beyond their control. Documentation should be submitted to the Academic Counselling Office of the student's *home* Faculty **as soon as possible (preferably within 24 hours of the scheduled test)**. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. If the documentation submitted is not acceptable, students will receive a zero for the missed test.

For personal illness, 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. The off-campus medical certificate form must also be used and can be found at:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

Notes stating "For Medical Reasons" are not considered sufficient.

For religious or compassionate circumstances, students should ask their Academic Counsellor what documentation to provide. If documentation is judged sufficient, the Academic Counsellor will issue a Recommendation for a Special Examination (a single form for midterms or a triple-color form for final exams). Once students have this form, they must contact their instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements. Even if approved by their Academic Counsellor, there is no guarantee that students will be allowed to write the makeup test/exam.

For final examinations, students need to seek permission from their *home* Faculty Counsellor, Instructor, and the Department Undergraduate Director. Failure to follow this procedure may result in a grade of zero. Students must ensure that the Special Examination form has been signed by the Instructor and Department Undergraduate Director and that the form is returned to the Academic Counselling Office for approval without delay. If approved, makeup examinations will be written within one month of the end of the exam period.

### **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](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/](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.