

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

January 2020

General Information:

Instructor: Deanna Walker

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Office hours: TBA

Classroom meeting time(s) & location:

Tuesdays 8:30-10:30 a.m. and Thursdays 8:30-9:30 a.m. in SEB1200

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 February 25, 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 coursework and/or examinations will be graded as zero. If under extenuating circumstances accommodation is granted, an appropriate form of accommodation will be

determined by the instructor. If the weight of a missed midterm or coursework will be shifted to the final exam, 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 if needed.

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:

Consumer choice and labour supply - Ch 2 (Ch 3)

Labour demand - Ch 5 (Ch 6)

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

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

Unions:

Extent of unionization- Ch 14

Bargaining - Ch 14, Appendix 14

Modelling unions - Ch 14

Impact of unions - Ch 15, 16

The student should note that these readings and any supplementary readings posted to OWL are not suitable to replace lectures. Parentheses indicate more partial coverage. 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.

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