

Labour Economics  
ECONOMICS EC2155B-001  
Department of Economics  
Western University

January 2023

**Instructor:** Aisha Arooj Khan  
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**Office hours:** Wed 11-1pm;  
appointments are advised, please email in advance  
**Delivery mode:** *In-person lectures, online zoom/in-person office hours*  
**Meeting time(s):** Mondays 2:30-3:30pm  
Wednesdays 1:30-3:30pm

**Classroom:** UCC- 56

**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/Antirequisite Note:**

The prerequisite(s) for this course is (are) **Economics 2150A/B**.

The antirequisite(s) for this course is (are) **Economics 3344A/B and Economics 3345A/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:**

Labour economics encompasses the questions of the supply of and demand for labour in the aggregate and of various skills. Alternative approaches to these questions will be discussed as well as their effects on the distribution of earnings and the level of unemployment

### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the course, as a successful student, you will be able to:

1. Analyze supply and demand behaviors in labour markets and understand how the interaction between supply and demand determines wages and employment.
2. Explain why there are wage differentials exist among workers and the wage structures across markets.
3. Evaluate the effects of government policies, such as minimum wage laws and income maintenance schemes.
4. Apply human capital theory to explain the decision to invest in human capital.
5. Explain causes and consequences of unemployment.
6. Describe empirical findings on the theory of labour demand, labour supply and their interaction.

### **Textbook and Course Materials:**

***Required: Labour Market Economics, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, by Benjamin, Gunderson, Lemieux, Riddell and Schirle***

Below is the link to the paperback and e-book versions of the textbook that students can purchase through the Book Store:

[https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2022B&courses%5B0%5D=001\\_UW/ECO2155B](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2022B&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/ECO2155B)

Important notes:

1. Access to Connect is not required for all assessments.
2. I will assign readings and practice questions based on the 9<sup>th</sup> edition.

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Lectures will be based on the book and follow the book; however, they will also include extra material not found in the book such as practice and examples.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

### **Topics Covered and Readings:**

Below is the tentative outline for this course with references to book chapters in parentheses. Modifications should be expected.

1. Introduction  
Introduction to labour market economics [Ch. 1]

2. Labour Supply  
The theory of labour supply [Ch. 2]  
Labour supply and public policy [Ch. 3]  
Labour supply over the life cycle [Ch. 4]
3. Labour Demand  
Demand for labour in competitive labour markets [Ch. 5]  
Labour demand, non-wage benefits, and quasi-fixed costs [Ch. 6]
4. Wages and employment in a single labour market [Ch. 7]
5. Wage differentials  
Compensating wage differentials [Ch. 8]
6. Human capital theory and application  
Human capital theory: Applications of human capital theory to education and training [Ch. 9]
7. Wage structures across markets [Ch. 10]
8. Discrimination and male-female earnings differentials [Ch. 12]
9. Unemployment  
Meaning, measurement, and Canada’s experience [Ch.16]  
Causes and consequences [Ch. 17]

**Assessments and Grading:**

<b>Assessments</b>	<b>Tentative Date and Time</b>	<b>Tentative Material</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Assignment 1	Due February 9	Ch 1,2,3,4	10%
Assignment 2	Due March 23	Ch. 5,6,7,8,9	10%
Midterm Exam	March 1, 2023 (in class)	Ch 1,2,3,4,5,6,7	35%
Final Exam	Set by Office Registrar	Cumulative	45%

If you are unable to take a midterm due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must get confirmation from Academic Counselling. Once the absence has been approved; the weight of the assessment will be moved to the final exam weight.

**Communication:**

- Students should check the course OWL site every 24-48 hours
- Students should use the OWL “messages” tool to email the instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s)
- Students must email questions in advance and setup an appointment during office hours and a zoom link will be provided.
- Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours

- Students with accommodations are responsible for contacting the instructor **two weeks prior** to an assessment to confirm and allow for arrangements to be made.
- Students are encouraged to answer each other's questions on the forums. The forums will be monitored by the instructor or teaching assistant to correct and/or supplement answers provided by students. Questions not answered by other students will receive a response from the instructor or teaching assistant.

### **Technical Requirements:**

- Laptop or computer
- Stable internet connection
- Non-programmable calculator
- Microphone and Webcam

### **Tips on How to be Successful in this Class:**

- Attend classes, follow the material and ask questions.
- Questions are strongly encouraged during lectures and welcomed after a class.
- Read the book, practice questions and examples done in class.
- Meet with the TA during their office hours and ask practice questions during the term and in advance of assessments.

### **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 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.

**Please Note**  
**Department & University Policies for Winter 2023**

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: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated policies and procedures.
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 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 to the instructor.
6. **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: [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.**

Department of Economics procedures for appealing a mark can be found here: [https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program\\_counselling/responsibilities\\_policies.html#appeals](https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals). 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 [econugrd@uwo.ca](mailto:econugrd@uwo.ca). Please follow the instructions and use the appeal form shown in the above link.

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 add a second term half course: **Tuesday, January 17, 2023**
  - Deadline to drop a second term half course: **Tuesday, March 7, 2023**

### **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 [https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic\\_consideration.html](https://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](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 **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 to the instructor, 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.**

- 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](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](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 reasonable notice in writing, 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 [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

**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 [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.

**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.