

LABOUR ECONOMICS
ECONOMICS 3344B
Department of Economics
Western University

January 2023

Instructor: Anastasiia Suvorova
Office: 4036 SSC
E-mail: asuvorov@uwo.ca Please use Econ 3344 in the subject.
Office hours: *Office hours will be held in-person Tuesday and Friday, 12:00-13:00*
Delivery mode: *In-person*
Meeting time(s): *Tuesday, 9:30 – 10:30, and Thursday, 9:30 - 11:30*
Classroom: SSC 3024
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/Antirequisite Note:

The prerequisite(s) for this course is **Economics 2261A/B**.
The antirequisite(s) for this course is **Economics 2155A/B**.

(The prerequisites and antirequisites 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 Description:

A study of the labor market, including wage and employment determination, labor force participation, investment in labor market skills, discrimination, and migration.

Course Objectives:

The objective of this course is to provide students with tools to understand and investigate labour market processes as well as critically analyze the implications of various policies on individual and aggregate labour market outcomes.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Analyze labour supply and demand behaviors in labour market and how various policies affect wages and employment through changes to the demand and supply.
- Understand the fundamental aspects of the theory of human capital, explain the decision to invest in human capital.
- Understand the consequences of imperfect competition in the labour market, causes and consequences of unemployment.
- Be able to explain why wage differences exist across individual workers and across markets.
- Interpret empirical evidence within the context of the theories presented during the course.

Textbook(s) and Course Materials:

Required reading: Benjamin, Gunderson, Lemieux, Riddell, Schirle, Labour Market Economics, 9th edition, McGrawHill Ryerson, 2021. (further BGLRS)

The physical copy or e-Text can be purchased from Western's Bookstore:

<https://bookstore.uwo.ca/product/9781259654848>

<https://bookstore.uwo.ca/product/cebebookid9696897>

Lecture and practice materials posted on OWL: The BGLRS readings should not be considered as a substitute for the OWL material. Various advanced topics covered in the lecture notes are not in BGLRS.

Communication:

1. *OWL site:*
 - Students should check the course OWL site every 24-48 hours.
2. *Office hours*
 - I will answer questions about the course on *Tuesday and Friday, 12:00-13:00*
3. *Email*
 - You will typically receive a response within 24-48 hours except for weekends and holidays. Please put Econ 3344 in the subject. Only emails sent from valid UWO email addresses would be answered.

Technical Requirements

- *Laptop or computer*
- *Stable internet connection*

For technical support, see the OWL help page or contact Western Technology Services Helpdesk (<https://wts.uwo.ca/about-wts/contact.html>). Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers for OWL; update your browser frequently.

Assessments and Grading:

Your total grade (100%) will depend on two midterm exams, and one final exam according to the weights below:

Exam	Date and Time (Tentative)	Coverage (Tentative)	Weight
Midterm 1*	February 2, 9:50-11:10 a.m.	Ch. 1-4	25%
Midterm 2*	March 2, 9:50-11:10 a.m.	Ch. 5-8	25%
Final exam*	TBA	All covered material	50%

The duration of **each midterm** exam is **80 minutes**, and the duration of the **final exam is 2 hours**. **Midterm and final exams are in-person, closed-book, in a mixed format.***

You should keep this schedule and workload in mind, given your other courses and commitments. You should ensure that you can complete the tests on these dates.

** Note that all dates, times, and format are tentative and subject to change. When the Registrar's office confirms the Date and time for the tests/ exams, I will notify you earliest. In the event that classes move to an online status, the assessment dates, times and choices may change. All times are ET.*

- **Policies regarding missed exams:**
 - Missed tests/exams without approved, documented official accommodation from Academic Counseling will be given a **mark of zero**
 - If there has been approved, documented official accommodation, the weight of a missed test will be **transferred to final exam**.
- **Note:** missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

Course Schedule (Tentative):

Please see the tentative course schedule below. If there is any change in the tentative schedules/coverage, I will notify you using OWL's "Announcement" tool.

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]

Wages and employment in a single labour market [Ch. 7]

4. Compensating wage differentials [Ch. 8]

5. Human capital theory:

Applications of human capital theory to education and training [Ch. 9]

6. Wage structures across markets [Ch. 10]

7. Discrimination and male-female earnings differentials [Ch. 12]

8. Immigration [Ch. 11]

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.

Tips on How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

- Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
- Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
- Vary where you study: studying in different environments was shown to improve retention of the material.
- Vary the type of material studied in a single session.
- Space study time and have multiple encounters with the material.
- Practice explaining economic concepts and logic.
- Connect with others. Try forming a study group and meet on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
- Test yourself.
- Do not be afraid to ask questions.

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.
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).

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. **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. 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. 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
- **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 **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. **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 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/ 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.