COMMUNICATION

When sending email to me, please always use your McMaster email account. Put “ECON 2A03” or “LABRST 3A03” in the subject line and include your full name and student ID in the message. Please do not use the mail function within Avenue.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to labour economics. We mainly look at the behaviour of individuals, firms, and governments, and the various outcomes of their interactions within markets. Main topics include: the supply of labour, immigration, human capital, discrimination, and issues in the analysis of unemployment.

COURSE MATERIAL:


TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Introduction to labour market economics</td>
<td>Ch. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>The determination</td>
<td>The economics of immigration</td>
<td>Ch. 11</td>
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<td>of relative wages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labour Supply</td>
<td>Individual attachment to the labour market</td>
<td>Ch. 2</td>
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<td>Labour supply and public policy</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>The determination of relative wages</td>
<td>Compensating wage differentials</td>
<td>Ch. 8</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Human capital theory</td>
<td>Ch. 9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Discrimination &amp; male-female earnings differentials</td>
<td>Ch. 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>Unemployment: meaning, measurement and Canada’s experience</td>
<td>Ch. 16</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Unemployment: causes and consequences</td>
<td>Ch. 17</td>
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</table>

- Course materials (e.g. lecture slides, announcements, etc.) will be posted on the Avenue to Learn website [http://avenue.mcmaster.ca](http://avenue.mcmaster.ca)

  The Avenue site is down occasionally. Save the course materials to your computer as soon as they are posted. You are responsible for making yourself aware of any changes made to the course by checking Avenue daily.

**EVALUATION:**

The final grade for the course will be determined according to the following formula:

| Midterm I (October 6, Friday) | 25% |
| Midterm II (November 17, Friday) | 25% |
| Final exam | 50% |

**ATTENTION:**

- Coverage of the midterm will depend on the pace of the class to that point in the term. Midterm marks will be posted on Avenue. Only the Registrar’s Office can issue final grades.

- **No make-up midterm** and **No early writes** are provided. Please note the MSAF regulations have changed beginning Spring/Summer 2015. The upper limit for when an MSAF can be submitted has been reduced from ‘less than 30%’ to ‘less than 25%’ of the course weight. The timeframe within which the MSAF is valid has been reduced from 5 days to 3 days.
  [https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/current-students/academic-advising/procedures-forms-policies/student-absence-information](https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/current-students/academic-advising/procedures-forms-policies/student-absence-information)

- **Midterm II is not cumulative. The final exam is cumulative.** Schedule and location of the final exam will be announced by the Registrar Office. Please visit the following website for further details: [http://registrar.mcmaster.ca/exams/requirements/](http://registrar.mcmaster.ca/exams/requirements/) Travel plans are NOT a sufficient reason to have a final exam deferred. The Deferred Exam Policy is listed on the following website at: [http://registrar.mcmaster.ca/exams/deferred/](http://registrar.mcmaster.ca/exams/deferred/)
• Combination of particular distribution and absolute measures will be used to determine the course grades. The university grading system will be relied on as benchmark. Class attendance and participation will be considered for borderline cases.

• No programmable (graphing) calculator is allowed during the tests.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Labour Economics Journals

• Journal of Labour Economics
• Journal of Labour Research
• Labour economics
• Perspectives on Labour and Income
• Monthly Labor Review
• Journal of Human Resources
• Industrial Relations Research Association Proceedings
• Industrial and Labor Relations Review
• Industrial Relations

General-Interest Economics Journals

• Canadian Journal of Economics
• American Economic Review
• Economic Inquiry
• Canadian Public Policy
• Journal of Economic Perspectives
• Journal of Political Economy
• Review of Economics and Statistics
• Canadian Business Economics
• Journal of Economic Literature

OTHER NOTES:

Electronic Device Policy
Cell phones must be turned off or muted for the duration of the lecture. Laptop/tablet may only be used to view lecture material.

Attendance Policy
Class attendance is an integral part of your educational experience. It is an important factor in ensuring your complete understanding of the material presented. You are responsible for all material presented in the scheduled lecture periods whether you choose to attend lectures or not.
**Students Writing with SAS**
Students registered with SAS must book time to write the midterm tests with SAS. **You may only write on the same day as the rest of the class.** Tests written on any other day will not be accepted and a grade of zero will be assigned.

**Classroom Protocols**
The highest level of courtesy and professional behaviour are expected from every student. In particular, be punctual and turn off all audible ringers on all devices during class. As a courtesy to the custodial staff, if you have coffee, water, etc., please dispose of your garbage when you leave the classroom.

**Midterm Recess**
Reading Week is October 9 – October 15. No classes.

**Academic Dishonesty**
Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. a grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy located at [http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/)

We have a zero-tolerance policy with respect to cheating. Any student found cheating will be given a grade of zero on the test or exam. In every case, you will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity and to your faculty. If it is a first offence, a letter will remain in your file until you graduate. If it is a serious first offence or a second offence, the minimum penalty is zero in the course and a notation on your transcript.

If you are found with a cheat sheet, a cell phone, iPod, etc on or near your person during a test or the exam, this constitutes cheating and you may be prosecuted as outlined above, even if you were not using such items at the time. Talking at any time during a test or exam is also cheating, regardless of what you claim you were talking about. In addition, we have software that can identify students who were copying from other students. Any and all of these cases will be prosecuted in full.