

Economics of Trade Unionism and Labour

Fall 2018

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Office: TBA

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Lecture: Monday, Thursday 3:30-4:20, Tuesday 4:30 – 5:20

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Topics include the economics of the labour market, of trade unionism, of work, the impact of trade unions on the labour market, economic theories of strikes and trade unions and the state.

PREREQUISITES

Prerequisite: ECON 1B03 and ECON 1BB3 (or ARTS & SCI 2E03)

Cross Listed: LABR ST 3B03

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of this course is to give students a thorough overview of the modern theory of labour market behaviour, and how this theory is used to analyze public policy. This course will train students in economic policy analysis of leading issues in Labour market, trade unions and their operation on labour markets. It will also address the determinants on union coverage and membership and the effects of unions on wages, employment and other economic outcomes. While the principal empirical focus will be on policy issues in Canadian Labour market we will also do a comparison of international labour markets.

CLASS FORMAT

In Class Lectures

COURSE MATERIALS AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS

There is no required text book for this course. All study material required for midterm and final exam including lecture slides will be posted on Avenue to learn website. The focus will be on the policy analysis of labour market issues.

The recommended text books are as following:

- 1) Labour Market Economics, 8th Edition, by Benjamin, Gunderson, Lemieux, Riddell, Mc Graw Hill , ISBN-13: 978-1-2590-3083-3
- 2) Modern Labour Economics, 1st Canadian Edition by Ehrenberg, Smith & Chaykowski, Taylor and Francis ISBN-10: 0321115260 | ISBN-13: 9780321115263.

AVENUE TO LEARN

Avenue to learn website will be used for posting all lecture handouts, practice assignments, practice tests, and some interesting links.

Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

COURSE EVALUATION – OVERVIEW

Midterm Exam (30 %) **Tuesday October 16, 2018 in Class**
Term Paper (20%) **Tuesday November 13, 2018 due in class**
Final Exam – Cumulative F (50%) **Announced by the Registrar Office**

COURSE EVALUATION – DETAILS

The Final Exam will be cumulative and will cover all material covered in class. The guidelines and topics for term paper will be posted on Avenue.

Coverage of the midterm will depend on the pace of the class to that point in the term. **No make-up midterm** and **No early writes** are provided. You cannot use the MSAF reporting system for a missed midterm as it is worth 30% toward your final grade. In the event that a student is unable to write the midterm exam on the scheduled date, a medical certificate should be submitted within 5 days. With valid documentation, the 30% of total course grade from the missed mid-term will be re-assigned to the final examination. In the absence of valid documentation, a grade of zero will be assigned for the missed mid-term exam

COURSE POLICIES

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the 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 types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements. Academic accommodations must be arranged before classes or academic work begins, and for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances

Students who require academic accommodation due to an Observance must submit a RISO form to their Faculty office, electronically or in person, normally within ten working days from the beginning of each term in which they are anticipating a need for Accommodation. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Policy on Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances](#).

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

COURSE CONTENT

We plan to cover the following topics. All lecture slides will be posted on Avenue to learn and cover posted materials from recommended texts.

- 1) Introduction to labour Market Economics (Chapter 1)
- 2) Labour Supply: Individual attachment to the labour market (Chapter 2)
- 3) Demand for Labour in competitive labour markets (Chapter 5)
- 4) Labour Demand. Nonwage benefit and Quasi-Fixed Labour Cost (Chapter 6)
- 5) Human Capital Theory: Applications to Education and Training (Chapter 9)
- 6) The Economics of Immigration (Chapter 11)
- 7) Unions and Collective Bargaining (Chapter 14)
- 8) Unemployment: meaning, measurement and Canada 's experience (Chapter 16)
- 9) Unemployment: causes and consequences (Chapter 17)

*This outline is tentative and subject to change.