

ECON 2T03: Economics of Trade Unionism and Labour

Fall 2019

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30-3:30

Lecture: Monday, Thursday 12:30-1:20, Tuesday 1:30-2:20

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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

ECON 1B03 and ECON1BB3 (or ARTS & SCI 2E03)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of the course is to train students in economic policy analysis of trade unions and their operation on labour markets. It will address the determinants on union coverage and membership and the impacts of unions on employment, wages, and other economic outcomes such as economic inequality. While the main empirical focus will be on the Canadian experience, international comparisons are also informative and will be used throughout the courses.

CLASS FORMAT

In class lectures.

COURSE MATERIALS AND TEXTS

Benjamin, Dwayne, Morley Gunderson, Thomas Lemieux & W. Craig Riddell, 2017, Labour Market Economics, 8th edn., McGraw-Hill Ryerson

There is also a required coursepack that all students should purchase from the Campus Store. All readings listed in the Outline below are in the Coursepack.

AVENUE TO LEARN

Avenue to learn will be used to post lecture slides from the textbook and practice test questions.

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

1. **Midterm test (25%) – Monday, October 7, 2019**
2. **Midterm test (25%) – Thursday, November 14, 2019**
3. **Final Exam (50%) - Cumulative – Announced by the Registrar Office**

COURSE EVALUATION – DETAILS

The Final Exam will be cumulative and will cover all material covered in class. Coverage of the midterms will depend on the pace of the class to that point in the term. **No make-up midterm** and **No early writes** are provided. In the event that a student is unable to write a midterm exam on the scheduled date, a medical certificate should be submitted within 5 days. With valid documentation, the 25% 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.

Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF)

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work".

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

OUTLINE OF COURSE TOPICS

1 - Introduction to Labour Economics

Benjamin, Dwayne, Morley Gunderson, Thomas Lemieux & W. Craig Riddell, 2017, Labour Market Economics, 8th edn., McGraw-Hill Ryerson. Ch1, pp2-14.

Bernard, André & Jeannine Usalca, 2014, "The Labour Market in Canada and the United States since the Last Recession," Economic Insights, Statistics Canada Cat 11-626-X, No. 036

2 - Union Incidence, Growth & Decline

Benjamin, Dwayne, Morley Gunderson, Thomas Lemieux & W. Craig Riddell, 2017, Labour Market Economics, 8th edn., McGraw-Hill Ryerson. Ch14, pp402-417.

Campolieti, Michele, Rafael Gomez, Morely Gunderson, 2013. "Managerial Hostility and Attitudes Towards Unions: A Canada-US Comparison", *J Labor Res*, 34, 99-119.

Employment and Social Development Canada, 2016. "Labour Organizations in Canada 2015". Cat. No.: LT-289-08-16E

Galarneau, Diane, & Thao Sohn, 2013, "Long-term trends in unionization," Insights on Canadian Society, Statistics Canada, Cat 75-006-X.

3 - Demand for Labour in Competitive Markets

Benjamin, Dwayne, Morley Gunderson, Thomas Lemieux & W. Craig Riddell, 2017, Labour Market Economics, 8th edn., McGraw-Hill Ryerson. Ch5, pp134-165.

4 - Union Objectives: Theory and Evidence

Benjamin, Dwayne, Morley Gunderson, Thomas Lemieux & W. Craig Riddell, 2017, Labour Market Economics, 8th edn., McGraw-Hill Ryerson. Ch14, pp417-439.

5 - Union Impacts on Wages

Benjamin, Dwayne, Morley Gunderson, Thomas Lemieux & W. Craig Riddell, 2017, Labour Market Economics, 8th edn., McGraw-Hill Ryerson. Ch15, pp441-459.

6 - Union Impacts on Economic Inequality & Non-Wage Outcomes

Benjamin, Dwayne, Morley Gunderson, Thomas Lemieux & W. Craig Riddell, 2017, Labour Market Economics, 8th edn., McGraw-Hill Ryerson. Ch15, pp459-477.

Card, David, Thomas Lemieux & W. Craig Riddell, 2018, "Unions and Wage Inequality: The Role of Gender, Skill and Public Sector Employment", National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper 25313.

7 – Disputes in Collective Bargaining – Strikes and Alternatives

Gunderson, Morley, Bob Hebdon, and Douglas Hyatt, 2009, "Strikes and Dispute Resolution," Ch.12 in Canadian Labour and Employment Relations, 6th edition, Toronto: Pearson, pp322-360.

Ehrenberg, Ronald G, and Robert S Smith, 2015, Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy, Twelfth Edition, Pearson Education Inc. Ch13, pp472-480.

Bartkiw, Timothy J., 2015, "Collective Bargaining, Strikes and Lockouts Under the Labour Relations Act, 1995", Prepared for the Ontario Ministry of Labour, to support the Changing Workplaces Review of 2015, pp3-21.

