

McMASTER UNIVERSITY  
Department of Economics  
ECONOMICS 2T03 / LABOUR STUDIES 3B03  
Economics of Trade Unionism and Labour  
Fall 2017

**Course Instructor/Contact:**

Name: Mir Ahasan Kabir  
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Office Hours: Friday 10:30 - 12:20

**Lecture Time and Location:**

Lecture: Monday and Thursday, 9:30 - 10:20 and Tuesday, 10:30 - 11:20 CNH 103

**TA Information**

Name: Abira Sathiyathan      PETER JOHNSTON  
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Office Hours: Thursday: 11:00-12:00      Wed 1:00-2:00  
Office Room: KTH 118      KTH 118

**Prerequisite:** ECON 1B03 and ECON 1BB3 3 (or ARTS & SCI 2E03)

**Cross Listed:** LABR ST 3B03

**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.

**Course Objective:**

The objective of the course is to train students in economic analysis of trade unions and their operation on labour markets. It will 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 Canadian experience, international comparisons are informative and will be used throughout the course.

**Course Text/Readings:**

Labour Market Economics, Eight Edition 2017, by Dwayne Benjamin, Morley Gunderson, Thomas Lemieux, Craig Riddell (Mc Graw Hill), ISBN-13: 978-1-2590-3083-3.

**Organization of the Course (Topics)**

Chapter	Topics
1	Introduction to Labour Market Economics
2	Labour Supply: Individual Attachment to the Labour Market
3	Labour Supply and Public Policy: Work Incentive Effects of Alternative Income Maintenance Schemes
4	Labour Supply Over the Life Cycle
5	Demand for Labour in Competitive Labour Markets
6	Labour Demand, Nonwage Benefits, and Quasi-Fixed Costs
7	Wages and Employment in a Single Labour Market
14	Unions and Collective Bargaining
15	Union Impact on Wage and Nonwage Outcomes

**Course Overview and Assessment:**

There are three formal requirements for the course: Two midterm test (Each 20% of the grade), and a final test (60% of the grade). The methods of evaluation may include true/false/explain questions, multiple choice questions, and analytical problems. The dates for the first midterm is October 2, the second midterm is October November 6 and cannot be amended. Coverage of the midterms will depend on the pace of the class to that point in the term. The final will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office in the final examination period and will cover material from the whole course. MSAF policies apply. If an evaluation is missed with a valid reason, other assessments will be rewighted to determine the final grade.

**Important Note**

There may be small changes to the reading list, which will be announced as the course progresses. I may provide additional material during class. This course uses Avenue to post the course outline, assignments, and other notices. You should check it regularly.

**Additional Statements****MSAF Policy**

The course will follow University Policy on absences including MSAF Policy as available at: <https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/documents/forms/MSAF%20INFO%20SHEET-1.pdf>.

**Academic Dishonesty**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour 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 behaviour 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, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- 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 with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140, ext. 2865 or email [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

**Possible Course Modifications** At certain points in the course it may make good sense to modify the outlined schedule. The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course and will notify students accordingly (in class and on the course website).

**On Line Elements**

Avenue will be used for course announcements, files that you can download, and your grades. In addition, we will use e-mail. 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.