

ECO 339
Labour Economics: Employment, Wages, and Public Policy
Fall 2018

Instructor Contact Information:

Name: Elizabeth Dhuey
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Office hours: Tuesday 2:30pm-4:00pm, please sign up on Quercus for a slot.
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Class day/time: Tuesday 10:10-12:00pm
Class location: MP 137
Course website: Quercus

TA Information:

Name: Prince Kevin Danieles
Tutorial Time: Fridays 10:10am-11:00am
Tutorial Location: MP 137

The tutorial is used for a variety of purposes, including but not limited to: extra lectures, reviewing answers to problem set questions, discussing term tests, and discussing the writing assignment.

Course Description:

Using tools from microeconomic theory and statistics, this course introduces students to the study of Labour markets, focusing on employment and wage determination, and the application of labour economics to public policy. Topics will include: Labour supply, labour demand, estimating the impact of welfare programs, minimum wages, and other labour market interventions.

Prerequisite(s):

Students must have the following prerequisites, as listed in the Calendar, to take this course:

Intermediate Microeconomics: [ECO200Y1](#)/ [ECO204Y1](#)/ [ECO206Y1](#)

Statistics: [ECO220Y1](#)/ [ECO227Y1](#)/ ([STA220H1](#), [STA255H1](#))/ ([STA237H1](#), [STA238H1](#))/ ([STA257H1](#), [STA261H1](#))

Exclusion: [ECO339Y1](#), [ECO343Y5](#), [ECO344Y5](#)

The Department of Economics checks prerequisites in all economics courses, and students who do not have them will be removed from the course.

Textbook/Required Course Materials:

Benjamin, Dwayne, Morley Gunderson, Thomas Lemieux, and W. Craig Riddell, 2017. *Labour Market Economics*, eighth edition, (Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson).

Lecture Notes and Other Announcements:

This course uses the University's learning management system, Quercus, to post information about the course. This includes posting readings and other materials required to complete class activities and course assignments, as well as sharing important announcements and updates. The site is dynamic and new information and resources will be posted regularly as we move through the term, so please make it a habit to log in to the site on a regular, even daily, basis. To access the course website, go to the U of T Quercus log-in page at <https://q.utoronto.ca>. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, you should see the link or “card” for ECO339H1 F LEC0101. You may need to scroll through other cards to find this. Click on the ECO339H1 F LEC0101 link to open our course area, view the latest announcements and access your course resources. There are Quercus help guides for students that you can access by clicking on the “?” icon in the left side column. SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT GRADES POSTED ONLINE: Please also note that any grades posted are for your information only, so you can view and track your progress through the course. No grades are considered official, including any posted in Quercus at any point in the term, until they have been formally approved and posted on ROSI at the end of the course. Please contact me as soon as possible if you think there is an error in any grade posted on Quercus.

Course materials are provided for the exclusive use of enrolled students. Do not share them with others. I do not want to discover that a student has put any of my materials into the public domain, has sold my materials, or has given my materials to a person or company that is using them to earn money. The University will support me in asserting and pursuing my rights, and my copyrights, in such matters.

Email Policy:

Email can be a useful tool in facilitating communication between faculty and students, but there are serious limitations to how useful email can be to address questions in labour economics:

- If the response requires more than one sentence, email is not the appropriate medium for discussion of course materials. If it takes more, class time, tutorials or office hours are the more appropriate venue;
- In conformance with university policy, students are advised to ONLY use their utoronto email addresses.
- Always identify yourself in your email. You should include “ECO339” and a brief statement of the subject matter in the subject heading. Please do not send attachments of any kind, and never use email to submit term work.
- While I endeavor to respond to emails within 24 hours (except on weekends), if you do not get a response to your email, please contact the instructor after class or in office hours.
- Please also note that it is not appropriate to request marks, or the solutions to problem sets or midterm questions by email.

Evaluation and Grading:

Component	Weight/Value	Date
Midterm Exam	30%	October 23, 2018
Writing Assignment	30%	See assignment description for due dates
Final Exam	40%	TBD

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam covers the material from the first five lectures (Chapters 1-3) from the reading list that follows. This exam accounts for 30% of the final grade.

Writing Assignment

You will be required to write an essay based on the material we have learned in class in order to develop your understanding of the material and apply this material in a different context. This will help you develop writing skills. Writing assignment information can be found on the writing assignment information guide posted to Quercus. The assignment will need to be turned in using Turnitin on Quercus.

University disclaimer concerning Turnitin.com:

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com website.

Final Exam

The final exam will be held during the final exam period in December and will cover the material from the entire course. This exam accounts for 40% of the final grade.

Practice Problems:

There are problem sets posted on the course web page, and you will be expected to do them during the term. These problem sets are **not** to be turned in. Solution for the problem sets will also be posted online, but you should look at them only after you have had a chance to try the problems. I strongly encourage this because doing problem sets is how you will learn the material in this course and prepare yourself for exams. You will find many questions on the exams that resemble the questions you will have done on the problem sets. Also, the problem sets will give you some indication of how well you understand the material in the course, because this course requires a detailed ability to do problems and to demonstrate that you understand the fundamental principles we will be learning.

Policy on Calculators:

The use of a simple, non-programmable, quiet, non-printing calculator will be permitted in the midterm and final examination, i.e. 6 function calculators will be acceptable. You will not be permitted to share calculators and should take adequate precautions against calculator failure during a test. No allowance can be made for calculator failure or malfunction

Policy on Regrades:

If, after looking over your grade for your midterm or writing assignment components, you feel that your work merits re-grading, you must observe the following procedures:

- Submit your re-grading requests within one week of receipt (date of distribution) of the original grade. No re-grading requests will be considered after the time limit has passed.
- The re-grading request will include a typed note containing the following: (i) your name; (ii) your student number; (iii) the question number or writing component you believe was graded incorrectly; and (iv) explanation of why you feel your material is correct. The note must be attached to your examination.
- If there is an error in totaling up your score, you may write this on the cover of your test. Indicate what you think the total should be and return it to me as soon as possible but no later than a week.

The entire examination or written assignment will be reevaluated. Thus, it is possible to lose points as well as to gain points through re-grading.

If you do submit your examination for reevaluation, do not write on your exam or alter it in **ANY** way. If you do so, this may be considered a violation of the Academic Regulations and Code of Student Conduct. If you do not follow these instructions, your exam will not be regraded.

Policy on Missed Examinations:

If you miss the midterm exam and provide the appropriate documentation, you have two choices. You can choose to have your final exam count for 70% of your course grade instead of 40% or you can choose to make up the midterm exam within one week of the missed exam. The student's choice needs to be emailed to Professor Dhuey no later than one week after the missed midterm exam. For your own sake, you should try to write the exam if it is possible. If you miss an exam for any other reason, you will receive a grade of zero for that exam. The makeup exam will be held in Professor Dhuey's office and may include both oral and written components.

Policy on Late or Missed Writing Assignment:

The policy regarding late or missing writing assignments is outlined in the writing assignment document and can be found on Quercus. Please ask me immediately if you cannot locate this document on Quercus.

Specific Medical Circumstances:

If you become ill and it affects your ability to do your academic work, consult me right away. Normally, I will ask you for medical documentation in support of your specific medical circumstances. The University's Verification of Student Illness or Injury (VOI) form is recommended because it indicates the impact and severity of the illness, while protecting your privacy about the details of the nature of the illness. You can submit a different form (like a letter from a doctor), as long as it is an original document, and it contains the same information as the VOI. For more information, please see <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca> If you get a concussion, break your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

Religious Accommodations:

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of cultural and religious traditions. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (such as a test or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Requirements:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as/new-registration>. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

Accommodation for Personal Reasons:

There may be times when you are unable to complete course work on time due to non-medical reasons. If you have concerns, speak to me or to an advisor in your College Registrar's office; they can help you to decide if you want to request an extension or accommodation. They may be able to provide you with a College Registrar's letter of support to give to your instructors, and importantly, connect you with other resources on campus for help with your situation.

Mental Health and Well-Being

As a student, you may experience challenges that can interfere with learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, substance use, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of

motivation, financial concerns, family worries and so forth. These factors may affect your academic performance and/or reduce your ability to participate fully in daily activities. Everyone feels stressed now and then – it is a normal part of university life. Some days are better than others, and there is no wrong time to reach out. There are resources for every situation and every level of stress.

There are many helpful resources available through your College Registrar or through Student Life (<http://studentlife.utoronto.ca> and <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/feeling-distressed>). An important part of the University experience is learning how and when to ask for help. Please take the time to inform yourself of available resources.

Academic Integrity:

All students, faculty and staff are expected to follow the University's guidelines and policies on academic integrity. For students, this means following the standards of academic honesty when writing assignments, collaborating with fellow students, and writing tests and exams. Ensure that the work you submit for grading represents your own honest efforts. Plagiarism—representing someone else's work as your own or submitting work that you have previously submitted for marks in another class or program—is a serious offence that can result in sanctions. Speak to me on anything that you find unclear. To learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, see the U of T writing support website at <https://www.uts.utoronto.ca/twc/writing-support>. Consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters for a complete outline of the University's policy and expectations. For more information, please see <https://www.uts.utoronto.ca/vpdean/academic-integrity> and <http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca>.

Course Outline (Tentative and Approximate):

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	OTHER INFO & DUE DATES
09/11	Introduction and Overview of the Labour Market	Chapter 1	Partial derivative review posted
09/18	Labour Supply	Chapter 2	
09/25	Labour Supply	Chapter 2, continued	Problem Set 1 posted
10/02	Labour Supply and Public Policy	Chapter 3	Problem Set 2 posted
10/09	Labour Supply and Public Policy	Chapter 3, continued	Problem Set 3 posted
10/16	Demand for Labour in Competitive Markets	Chapter 5	
10/23	Midterm Exam in class		Midterm
10/30	Demand for Labour in Competitive Markets –	Chapter 5, continued	Writing Assignment Step 1: Annotated Bibliography Due
11/06	<i>Reading Week – No Class</i>		
11/13	Demand for Labour in Competitive Markets Labour Demand, Non-Wage Benefits, and Quasi-Fixed Costs	Chapter 5, continued Chapter 6	Writing Assignment Step 2: First Submission Due Problem Set 4 Posted
11/20	Wages and Employment in a Single Labour Market	Chapter 7	Writing Assignment Step 3: Peer assessments due
11/27	Wages and Employment in a Single Labour Market	Chapter 7, continued	Problem Set 5 Posted
12/04	Unemployment: Meaning, Measurement, and Canada's Experience	Chapter 16	Writing Assignment Step 4 & 5: Revised (final) Version and

	Unemployment: Causes and Consequences	Chapter 17	Reflection on Revision Process Due
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Tutorial Outline (Tentative and Approximate):

DATE	TOPIC
09/14	<i>No Tutorial</i>
09/21	TA Introduction Partial Derivative Review Brief Review of Consumer Theory
09/28	Review of Problem Set 1
10/05	Review of Problem Set 2 Discussion of Annotated Bibliographies
10/12	Review of Problem Set 3
10/19	Midterm Review
10/26	<i>No Tutorial</i>
11/02	Review of Midterm Answers Discussion of First Draft
11/09	<i>No Tutorial – Reading Week</i>
11/16	Review of Problem Set 4 Discussion of Peer Assessments
11/23	Final Exam Review
11/30	Review of Problem Set 5 Final Exam Review