

# Course Outline

## WINTER 2018 – ECON 3313 X2 LABOUR ECONOMICS

### Core Information:

**TIME:** Tuesday and Thursday at 10:00am – 11:20am **CLASSROOM:** BAC 238

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. C. Burç Kayahan

**OFFICE LOCATION:** BAC340

**OFFICE TEL:** (902) 585 14 92

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** [ckayahan@acadiau.ca](mailto:ckayahan@acadiau.ca)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Friday 10:00am – 12:00pm, other times by appointment

### Course Description:

This course introduces students to the economics of labour markets. The goal is to present the basic theoretical tools of modern labour economics that are built around the neo-classical model of labour supply and demand, and to apply these tools to the study of employment and earnings, with particular reference to the Canadian labour market. By combining theory and empirical evidence we learn how to address issues like what makes some people earn more than others, what causes unemployment, what are the labour market effects of immigration, how do unions affect wages and unemployment, or to what extent does the investment in education pay off.

### Course Objectives:

The main goal of this course is to give the students a basic understanding of the fundamentals of labour market theory from a Canadian perspective. The theoretical content will be complemented by empirical facts and figures to give the students an overall understanding of the facts observed in Canada. Few models that will be covered in this course will enable the students to answer key and relevant empirical questions that shape up the modern labour market policy in Canada.

### Textbook (Required):

Benjamin D., Gunderson M., Lemieux T. and C. Riddell, *Labour Market Economics*, Seventh Canadian Edition, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2012, ISBN:0-07-074020-08

## Evaluation:

There will be two tests worth (25% each) administered in the class for a total of 25% of the overall grade, and a final exam worth 50% of the overall grade.

Tests: Two exams administered during the lecture (Total: 50%)

Tentative Dates:

- Test 1 (25%) @ **Either February 13<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>**
- Test 2 (25%) March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Final: Date : TBA (50%)

There will be no make-ups for the midterm. A missed midterm is assigned 0% weight in the final grade. In extreme circumstances, if the midterm test cannot be attended due to unforeseen illness or because of compassionate reasons, the weight for the missed midterm can get reassigned to the final exam provided appropriate documentation is submitted within a week of the test date.

## Student Resources:

Acadia University respects that students have diverse learning needs and through Accessible Learning Services we provide an individualized and inclusive support system for students with disabilities. The accommodations provided by Accessible Learning Services are based on recommendations outlined in students' medical and psychological educational documentation. These recommendations are varied and may include counselling, mentoring, tutoring, note-taking, assistive technology, exam accommodations, and access to government bursaries and grants.

For more information about Accessible Learning Services please contact: Dr. Abu Kamara, Coordinator of Accessible Learning, at [abu.kamara@acadiau.ca](mailto:abu.kamara@acadiau.ca), or Kathy O'Rourke, the Disability Resource Facilitator, at [disability.access@acadiau.ca](mailto:disability.access@acadiau.ca).

Website: <http://accessiblelearning.acadiau.ca/>

Books and journal articles from the library can improve your assignments, labs, and papers. Visit the library at <http://library.acadiau.ca>.

View resources specifically selected for your course at <http://libguides.acadiau.ca/economics> and contact the Economics Librarian at [britanie.wentzell@acadiau.ca](mailto:britanie.wentzell@acadiau.ca) for research help.

The Writing Centre offers free help to all students wishing to improve their writing skills. You can sign up online today:

To book a one-to-one appointment with a writing tutor, click here:  
[writingcentre.acadiau.ca/writing-tutorials.html](http://writingcentre.acadiau.ca/writing-tutorials.html)

To see which helpful presentations and workshops you can attend this year, click here:  
[writingcentre.acadiau.ca/workshops-and-presentations.html](http://writingcentre.acadiau.ca/workshops-and-presentations.html)

## Requirements:

I expect my students to attend the classes in a regular and organized manner. The first 6 weeks are crucial in establishing the framework that will be built on for the rest of the semester.

There will be assigned readings (for the lectures in the second half of the course in particular) hence students will be expected read the assigned readings prior to lectures and exams.

The course website will be available via Acadia Courseware & Online Resource Network (ACORN) at <http://acorn.acadiau.ca>. Make sure to check this site every week for course related materials and announcements that will be available as we progress throughout the course.

## Academic Ethics:

It is the responsibility of students to familiarize themselves with the University's policy on academic ethics. Copying, plagiarism and other academic offences will not be tolerated. Penalties are severe and may result in suspension from a program/course and expulsion. A complete list of Academic Regulations can be found on the Policies page of the University's website.

I strongly recommend that all class members review the sections found on pages 58 of the 2017-18 academic calendar dealing with **Academic Integrity**. It is a serious offence to engage in **academic misconduct**.

## Important Notes:

Memorization of material and models will not produce good results in this course. Understanding of graphs is **CRUCIAL** for summarizing the material in this course so make sure to **DRAW** graphs while you are studying the material. You are encouraged (indeed, expected) to work through the examples and problems provided in the textbook. The format of the exams will be a combination of multiple-choice questions, problem-solving and essay type questions. Working through lots of examples provides the best

means for developing an understanding of economics and problem-solving skills. I would encourage you to first try doing exercises on your own and then go over them with a study partner so that you can help each other master the material.

## Quizzes and Exams:

During quizzes and examinations, all textbooks, study materials, pencil cases, hand-held computing devices, cell phones, coats, backpacks, hats, etc. must be placed at on the floor at the front of the classroom. Only non-programmable calculators, pens, pencils and erasers may be used during exams. Any student who breaches these rules and/or engages in academic misconduct will be asked to leave, will receive a grade of zero on the examination, and may be subject to further penalties with respect to academic offences ("Academic Ethics" section above).

## Topics:

### **I. LABOUR SUPPLY**

Introduction to Labour Market Economics	Ch. 1
Labour Supply: Income-Leisure Model	Ch. 2
Labour Supply and Public Policy: Work Incentive Programs	Ch. 3
Labour Supply Over the Lifecycle	Ch. 4

### **II. LABOUR DEMAND**

Labour Demand in Competitive Markets	Ch. 5
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### **III. LABOUR SUPPLY AND DEMAND TOGETHER**

Wages and Employment in a Single Labour Market	Ch. 7
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### **IV. ADDITIONAL TOPICS**

Human Capital Theory: Applications to Education & Training	Ch. 9
The Economics of Immigration	Ch. 11