

NAME OF THE COURSE
ECONOMICS EC2155B-001
Department of Economics
Western University

January 2021

General Information:

Instructor: Phuong Vu
Office: 4046 SSC (not in use at this time)
Phone: 519-661-2111 ext. 85886 (not in use at this time)
E-mail: pvu6@uwo.ca
Must be addressed from your uwo.ca account. Please put Econ2155 in subject.
Office hours: Wednesdays 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM Eastern Time (ET);
Office hours will be held online via Zoom (please sign in using your uwo.ca account)
Delivery mode: Online asynchronous class
Course website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>
Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 or SSC Room 4075 or econugrd@uwo.ca

Registration:

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in this course, the Department will not release any of your marks until your registration is corrected. You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website at <https://student.uwo.ca>. If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counsellor immediately.

Prerequisite Note:

The prerequisite(s) for this course is (are) **Economics 2150A/B**
The antirequisite(s) for this course is (are) **Economics 3344A/B and Economics 3345A/B**

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken any anti-requisite courses. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed.

If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Course Objectives:

The goal of the course is to introduce students to traditional and contemporary topics in labour economics. The class provides students a systematic development of the theory of labour demand, labour supply, and the interaction of labour demand and labour supply that determines wage and employment. This course also aims to investigate reasons for wage differentials to exist among workers and to equip students with knowledge on human capital theory, wage structures across markets, and unemployment. Another purpose of the course is to familiarize students with empirical findings on discussed topics.

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, as a successful student, you will be able to:

1. Analyze supply and demand behaviors in labour markets and understand how the interaction between supply and demand determines wages and employment.
2. Explain why there are wage differentials exist among workers and the wage structures across markets.
3. Evaluate the effects of government policies, such as minimum wage laws and income maintenance schemes.
4. Apply human capital theory to explain the decision to invest in human capital.
5. Explain causes and consequences of unemployment.
6. Describe empirical findings on the theory of labour demand, labour supply and their interaction.

Textbook(s) and Course Materials:

Required: *Labour Market Economics*, 8th edition, by Benjamin, Gunderson, Lemieux and Riddell.

The physical copy or e-Text can be purchased from Western's Bookstore:

<https://bookstore.uwo.ca/product/cebcodeid23559>

Important notes:

1. Access to Connect is not required for all assessments.
2. I will assign readings and practice questions based on the 8th edition. I will not be answering questions related to how material assigned from the 8th edition compares to that in other editions of the textbook.

Communication:

- You should check the course OWL site for newly posted course material at the start of each week (Monday, except in the case of a holiday or reading week).
- You should check OWL announcements multiple times per week. You are responsible for any announcements made including any changes made to the syllabus as well as test date changes.

- For questions related to course content, you should either post them on the OWL forum so that everyone can access answers to questions or ask them during office hours.
- For questions unrelated to course content, you should contact the instructor via email from your UWO email account. You will typically receive a response within 24-48 hours except for weekends and holidays. Please note that I will NOT respond to email such as the following:
 - Any questions that are on this syllabus or elsewhere on OWL such as exam/quiz dates, exam/quiz times, course materials, makeup policy etc. If you have not received a reply to your question, check the syllabus and OWL.
 - Requests for extra assignments, reweighting of exams, assignments etc. which are different from what is stated in the course syllabus.
- Students are encouraged to answer each other's questions on the forums. The forums will be monitored by the instructor or teaching assistant to correct and/or supplement answers provided by students. Questions not answered by other students will receive a response from the instructor or teaching assistant.
- During virtual office hours, your questions will be answered on first come first served basis. Each student will have a 15-min time slot which can be extended if there are no other students in the waiting room for office hours.

Technical Requirements

This course requires that you have access to:

- A laptop or computer for taking all assessments;
- A stable internet connection for taking all assessments;
- A microphone for participating in online office hours;
- A webcam (optional) for participating in online office hours. A webcam may also be required for students who require a make-up for the Final exam.

Important notes: As an economic instructor, **I do not help solve technical problems regarding computer or internet connection issues**. If you email me questions related to these problems, I will refer you to this section in the course outline. For technical support, see the OWL Help page or contact Western Technology Services Helpdesk (<https://wts.uwo.ca/about-wts/contact.html>). Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers for OWL; update your browser frequently.

Assessments and Grading:

Your course grade will be based on 5 quizzes and a final exam as listed on the assessment table below. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped, so that the best 4 of the 5 quizzes will be used towards your final course grade.

| Assessments | All assessments have a time window of 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM Eastern Time (ET) | Tentative material | Weight |
|--------------------|--|---|---------------|
| Quiz 1 | Thursday, February 4 | Chapters 1, 2, 3 | 15% |
| Quiz 2 | Thursday, February 25 | Chapters 4, 5 | 15% |
| Quiz 3 | Thursday, March 11 | Chapters 6, 7 | 15% |
| Quiz 4 | Thursday, March 25 | Chapters 8, 9 | 15% |
| Quiz 5 | Thursday, April 8 | Chapters 10, 12, 16 | 15% |
| Final Exam | Set by Registrar | All chapters: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 16, 17 | 40% |

Course grade = Best 4 of 5 Quizzes (4*15%=60%) + Final Exam (40%)

Please note that all dates and times are tentative. The Registrar's office will be approving the schedule of all assessments. You will be notified if there are any changes. The exact coverage of material is also tentative and will be confirmed ahead of each assessment.

Other important notes:

1. Each assessment except for the Final Exam will be available from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM (ET, London, Ontario time) on the tentatively assigned dates (as shown above). Plan to start your assessment with enough time for you to complete it.
2. All assessments are administered via OWL. Assessments are mixed format, covering multiple choice questions, short answer questions, fill-in-the-blank questions, etc... Assessments may vary in length. The duration and material coverage of each assessment will be announced ahead of time on the Monday prior to each assessment.
3. During assessments, students may NOT communicate with any person other than the instructor and/or the proctor (if applicable). Also, during assessments, students may NOT use any books, notes, study guides, diagrams, communication equipment such as a cell phone, computer programs or software, online resources or websites, or other aids unless specifically authorized by the instructor. Such authorization must be stated explicitly in the assessment instructions.
4. All assessments are open book. To be successful in this course, you should prepare all assessments as if they are in-person, closed-book assessments so that during the assessments, you spend your time thinking about the questions rather than reviewing the course material. Otherwise, you will likely run out of time and be unable to complete the assessment. Please note that running out of time is not a basis for appealing your grade. The assessments are designed to ensure there is enough time if you have prepared for and know the material well.
5. All submitted documents (quizzes and final exam) will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. They will also be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.
6. If you are a student with a disability and require extra time accommodation, please ensure your accommodation are active on the Accommodated Exams websites for this course 10 days before the assessment. Any accommodations posted there will be

applied to your assessment.

Policy Regarding Missed Assessments:

1. If you miss any assessments, request academic consideration either through a self-reported absence (SRA) or an absence approved by the Academic Counselling office. Students who miss any assessments must follow Western University's procedures for approval of their absence in order to receive an accommodation. Please see the **Please Note Department Policies for 2020-2021** section of this syllabus for details on these procedures. If Western University announces any procedures for the approval of absences during Winter 2021 that supplement or supplant the information provided on this syllabus, please follow those procedures. Any assessment missed without approval will receive a mark of zero.
2. There will be **no make-ups** for the quizzes. If you use an SRA for an absence or the approved absence by Academic Counselling, the following rules apply:
 - a. The first missed quiz with an approved absence is dropped.
 - b. The second missed quiz with an approved absence is transferred to the final. This means the weight of the final exam becomes 55% of your course grade.
 - c. The third, fourth, or fifth missed quizzes with an approved absence are recorded as grades of zeros. Missing three or more assessments during the term is likely to result in an inability to meet the course learnings outcomes and/or to pass the course. In this case, contact me for additional steps.
3. Students with an approved absence (approved by both Academic Counselling and the instructor) from the Final Exam AND who emailed me no later than 48 hours after the commencement of the exam will be able to write the make-up Final Exam which will be scheduled by the Department. **The make-up Final Exam may differ in length and format from the regularly scheduled Final Exam. The make-up Final Exam might be proctored using Zoom.**

Topics Covered and Readings:

Below is the outline for this course with references to book chapters in parentheses. Modifications should be expected.

1. Introduction
Introduction to labour market economics [Ch. 1]
2. Labour Supply
The theory of labour supply [Ch. 2]
Labour supply and public policy [Ch. 3]
Labour supply over the life cycle [Ch. 4]
3. Labour Demand
Demand for labour in competitive labour markets [Ch. 5]
Labour demand, non-wage benefits, and quasi-fixed costs [Ch. 6]
4. Wages and employment in a single labour market [Ch. 7]

5. Wage differentials
 Compensating wage differentials [Ch. 8]
6. Human capital theory and application
 Human capital theory: Applications of human capital theory to education and training [Ch. 9]
7. Wage structures across markets [Ch. 10]
8. Discrimination and male-female earnings differentials [Ch. 12]
9. Unemployment
 Meaning and measurement [Ch.16]
 Causes and consequences [Ch. 17]

Professionalism, Privacy and Copyright:

- You are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- All lectures and course materials, including slides, presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by **copyright**. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational purposes only.
- You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, assessments, or any other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without written consent of the instructor.
- Recordings (audio or video) are not permitted without explicit, written permission of the instructor. Permitted recordings may not be distributed or shared.
- You are expected to follow online etiquette expectations provided on OWL.
- You are expected to take an academic integrity pledge before most assessments.

Online Etiquette:

Some components of this course will involve online interactions. To ensure best experience of both you and your classmates, please honor the following rules of etiquette:

- Self-identify when asking question or participating on forum discussion.
- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, teaching assistant and other classmates.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your reading. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment.
- Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately. Note that disruptive behavior of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

Tips on How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

- Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
- Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
- I will teach key concepts through recorded video lectures. These videos will be provided on OWL. Treat this course as you would in a face-to-face course. Take notes as you go through the lesson material.
- Start each week by reading the assigned content. Videos and PowerPoints do not contain all the material that you need to know. You must read the textbook and other assigned readings.
- After reading the assigned sections in the textbook and lecture notes, try to solve the suggested assigned problems and practice quizzes (if applicable).
- Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and meet (online) on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
- Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you have questions or are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or ask your instructor and/or teaching assistant during office hours.

Please Note

Department & University Policies for 2020-2021

The University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should check their registration to ensure they are enrolled in the correct courses.

Academic Rights and Responsibilities: Students should be familiar with their “Academic Rights and Responsibilities” as outlined [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated procedures.

Guidelines and Policies for Students are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Undergraduate information for the Faculty of Social Science can be found at: <https://www.ssc.uwo.ca/undergraduate/index.html> and for the Department of Economics at: <https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/index.html>.

Rules of Conduct for Examinations: Students are expected to know the university’s Rules of Conduct for Examinations, available [here](#).

Cheating and Academic Offences: Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat.” The Department of Economics treats cheating and other academic offences very seriously and will investigate any suspect behavior. Students found guilty will incur penalties that could include a failing grade or being barred from future registration in Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as suspension or expulsion.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is an academic offence. Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Ideas/passages taken from another author must be referenced with footnotes or citations and acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate. Western University uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to electronically submit their work. Those found guilty will be penalized as noted in point 3. See Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar.

Academic Appeals: Students should refer to the Student Academic Appeals section [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar. Please note the relevant deadlines.

Department Appeals Procedures: The Department will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter with the instructor first. Students who remain dissatisfied with the outcome may submit a written appeal to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for their appeal. Information on the Department of Economics' appeals procedure and the appeals form are available [here](#).

Systematic Adjustments: Systematic adjustments of class grade distributions (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The systematic adjustment of a class grade distribution is **not** grounds for an appeal.

Add/drop deadlines:

Deadline to add a second term half course:

Tuesday January 19, 2021

Deadline to drop a second term half course:

Sunday March 14, 2021

Oversleeping or Misreading the Exam Schedule: Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading the exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to all exams in the Department of Economics.

End of Term Travel: Students must book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted; travel is not an acceptable excuse for absence from a final exam.

Rewriting Exams and Retroactive Reweighting are NOT Permitted: Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or retroactive reweighting of marks, is **not** permitted.

Accommodation Policies: Students with disabilities should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Missed Assessments/Exams due to Student Absence: Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to receive academic consideration if they self-report a missed assessment using the online portal, provided the following conditions are met: the assessment is missed due to an absence of no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted otherwise on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office for more information about the relevant documentation. It is strongly recommended that students notify the instructor as soon as possible, ideally before the assessment, when they become aware of an absence. University policy is that students must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the SMC or immediately upon their return from their documented absence. Failure to follow University policy and procedures may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero.

Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons. **All required documentation for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see: [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs.](#)

For the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Religious Accommodation: Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Policy Regarding Class Attendance and Engagement: If the instructor deems a student's attendance or engagement in the class to be unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. Examples of unsatisfactory class engagement include frequent absences from an in-person or synchronous online class, lack of assignment submissions, and inadequate use of online course materials. Instructors who intend to make use of this policy will notify the student in advance.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services: Students under emotional/mental distress should visit http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.