

University of Guelph
College of Management and Economics
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

ECON*4790 -Topics in Labour Market Theory

Winter Semester 2012

Instructor: Louis Christofides, Rm. 736, Ext. 52188

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Office Hours: Mon., Wed., 11.30 – 12.30 and by appointment

Lectures: Mon. and Wed. 10:00-11:20 am in MacK234

It is your responsibility as a student to be aware of and to abide by the University's policies regarding academic misconduct, e-mail communication, maintaining copies of out-of class assignments, what to do when you cannot meet a course requirement and the drop date for this semester. To better understand these policies, visit:

<http://www.economics.uoguelph.ca/student-responsibilities-policies.asp>

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to the major themes covered in Labour Economics. These include supply and demand, equilibrium in the labour market, outcomes such as employment and wages, the structure of wages across industries, occupations and sectors, firm sizes, the genders and levels of human capital, bargaining and unionism, unemployment, unemployment insurance and social programmes. An undergraduate textbook provides the basic material for each of these topics and it will be supplemented by readings that will be assigned during the course, some of which will be the subject of student presentations in class.

This is a preliminary course outline, pending more information about the number and background of the students taking this course.

TEXTBOOK

D. Benjamin, M. Gunderson, T. Lemieux, C. Riddell. Labour Market Economics. Sixth Edition, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2007.

ASSESSMENT:

30% Midterm examination

40% Final examination

30% Class participation

- **Midterm examination (30%)**

Monday February 13, 2012 during class 10-11.15 am

- **Final examination 40%**

Friday April 20, 2012 at 7-9 pm

The place will be determined.

- **In-class participation and presentation 30%**

30% of your final grade will come from participation in class discussions and group presentation(s) – format to be determined.

TOPICS:

1. Labour supply

(Ch. 2, 3, 4)

2. Labour demand

(Ch. 5, 6)

3. Equilibrium outcomes

(Ch. 7)

4. Compensating wage differentials

(Ch. 8)

5. Earnings and human capital

(Ch. 9)

6. Wage differentials

(Ch. 10)

7. Immigration

(Ch11)

8. Gender

(Ch. 12)

9. Compensation schemes

(Ch. 13)

9. Collective bargaining

Union wage differentials (Ch. 14, 15, 16)

10. Unemployment

(Ch. 17, 18)

WEB SITE:

Announcements, etc, will be posted on the course website at CourseLink.

EMAIL POLICY:

This is for emergency use only; students should refrain from sending email messages.

EVALUATION:

You will be asked to complete an evaluation of this course at some time during the last two weeks of the semester. The Department of Economics policy regarding the conduct and use of these evaluations will be found at:

<http://www.economics.uoguelph.ca/courses-evaluation.asp>