

General Course Information

Instructor: Miana Plesca
Email miplesca@uoguelph.ca
Office Location Remote (Zoom)
Office Hours By appointment
Department/School Economics and Finance

Class Schedule: Tue, Thu 11:30 – 12:50 FSA, 241 (1)
Tue, Thu 14:30 – 15:50 MACS, 121 (2)

Pre-requisites: ECON*2310, (1 of ECON*2740, PSYC*2010, STAT*2040, STAT*2050, STAT*2060, STAT*2080, STAT*2090, STAT*2100, STAT*2120)

Restrictions:

Course Description

This course introduces students to the economics of labour markets. We start by presenting the basic theoretical tools of modern labour economics built around the neo-classical model of labour supply and demand. By combining theory and empirical evidence we learn how to address issues such as: what determines labour force participation and unemployment; what makes some people earn more than others; to what extent does the investment in education pay off; what are the labour market effects of immigration; how do unions affect wages and unemployment; what was the effect of COVID on the labour market; and others. We study how government policies and public institutions shape the Canadian labour market. The course is a mix of theory and empirical applications. For empirical applications we will use Python, R and/or Stata.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, you will:

Knowledge and Understanding:

Upon successfully completing this course, you will be able to use evidence from a variety of sources to make informed decisions about policies affecting the labour market. You will be able to examine a situation or a policy from more than one angle and identify immediate effects as well as unintended consequences of a policy.

Discipline/Professional and Transferable Skills:

Upon successfully completing this course you will be able to use a variety of techniques and models to compute statistics of interest within the field. You will be able to communicate the results of your analytical work to others, and you will be able to comment critically and constructively on others' work.

Attitudes and Values

Upon successfully completing this course you will be able to work in teams, submit work following deadlines, and show proper professional behaviour.

Summary of Course Content and Materials

1. Employment

Labour Supply: Labour Force Participation and Hours Worked (Ch. 2)

Equilibrium unemployment (Ch. 16, 17)

Labour Supply and Public Policy: Income Transfer Programs (Ch. 3) (Time permitting)

2. Wage differentials: Human capital

Canadian post-secondary education (Ch. 9)

Wage differentials across markets (Ch.10)

3. Wage differentials: Discrimination

Male-female wage differential and discrimination (Ch. 12)

Immigration (Ch. 11)

Unions (Ch. 13, 14) (Time permitting)

Course Assessment

Assessment 1: assignments	15%	Assignment 1 and feedback	LO 1 – 3	<i>Week 5, PEAR Assignment Oct. 7 Feedback Oct. 11</i>
	15%	Assignment 2 and feedback	LO 1 – 3	<i>Week 8, PEAR Assignment Oct. 28 Feedback November 1st</i>
	15%	Assignment 3 and feedback	LO 1 – 3	<i>Week 11, PEAR Assignment Nov.18 Feedback Nov. 22</i>
Assessment 2: quizzes	15%	4 Quizzes Keep top 3 marks	LO 1 – 3	<i>End of weeks 3, 6, 9, 11: Sept 26, Oct 17, Nov 7, Nov 21 on Courselink</i>

Assessment 3: project	15%	Empirical project (work in groups)	LO 1 – 3	<i>Topic due by the end of week 8 (November 1st) on Courselink (Dropbox)</i>
				<i>Proposal due by the end of week 10 (Nov. 15) On Courselink (Dropbox)</i>
				<i>Final project submission due by November 28</i>
Assessment 4:	25%	Final exam	LO 1 – 3	<i>Webadvisor</i>
Total	100%			

Assignments (45%)

There will be three individual assignments following largely the first three topics: unemployment, human capital, discrimination. I will provide the questions and data, and directions on the empirical approach to be followed. You will be responsible for providing individual answers. Please be reminded that copying chunks of text from each other will be considered plagiarism.

Each assignment has two components. After submitting an assignment on **PEAR**, each of you is assigned to mark one other student's submissions on **PEAR**. Two thirds (10% in the final grade) come from the mark you get on your initial submission. One third of the assignment mark (5% in the final grade) comes from the mark you get from me based on the quality of your review. Due to the double-blind nature of the peer review process, please remember to keep your **submissions anonymous** (no name on the papers). Because on **PEAR** assignments get distributed for review together with an answer key, **there are no extensions possible for PEAR assignments**. The peer review students receive on **PEAR** also need to be rebutted by students, and therefore deadlines need to be respected, with no wiggle room for being late.

Quizzes (15%)

There will be four **quizzes**; each of them **5%**. Drop the worst, keep the other three, to a total of **15%** of the final course grade. The quizzes are during class on Thursday when a quiz is scheduled. There is **no make-up** scheduled for missed quizzes (we can discuss potential remote writing **using Respondus** if you cannot make it to class, with proper documentation).

Project (15%)

You will be assigned to work in random groups for the empirical project part, which is worth **15%** of your total grade.

Mark distribution for project:

Topic (5%)

You will be able to choose among labour topics of current public policy relevance. You should submit the topic by the end of week 8, including data sources.

Project proposal (5%)

The proposal will include a short literature survey, the data source, a preliminary look at the data (including variable names and summary statistics), and a description of how you proceed in researching your topic. Econometrics is not a prerequisite for this course.

Final project submission (5%)

You will have to submit a revised version on the project proposal, including data analysis, which becomes your term project.

Final exam (25%)

The final exam is cumulative. The exam is in-class, time and location from Webadvisor:

W 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

12/4/2024

Teaching and Learning Practices

Lectures In person.

Course Resources

Required Text:

Dwayne Benjamin, Morley Gunderson, Thomas Lemieux, Craig Riddell, Tammy Schirle

Publisher: McGraw-Hill

Edition: 9

ISBN: ISBN10: 1260889548 | ISBN13: 9781260889543

Connect: optional

Other Resources:

Course Policies

Grading Policies

Unless you have discussed an extension well ahead of the due date with the instructor, late penalties of 5% of the total grade earned per day (including weekends) will be assigned to any assessment (i.e. deducted from the total mark). Extensions will only be granted on the basis of valid medical or personal reasons, and need to be requested via email to the instructor as soon as possible. Late assignments will not be accepted once graded assignments have been returned officially to the class at large, unless circumstances permit and alternative arrangements have been made.

Students who find themselves unable to meet course requirements by the deadlines or the criteria expected because of medical or personal reasons, should review the regulations on academic consideration in the Academic Calendar and discuss their situation with the instructor, program counselor or other academic counselor as appropriate.

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-grds.shtml>

Missed Assignments:

A grade of zero will be assigned if you fail to submit an assignment, unless you are ill or have other compassionate reasons. Please read your Undergraduate Calendar for the regulations regarding illness and compassionate grounds. Please note, vacation travel, moving house, or outside work commitments will not be accepted as valid reasons for missing deadlines.

If you have religious observances which conflict with the course schedule or if you are registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact the course instructor in order to make arrangements for your assessment if appropriate.

University Policies

Academic Consideration

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part

could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email sas@uoguelph.ca or see the website: <https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/accessibility/>

Course Evaluation Information

Please refer to the [Blue by Explorance system](#).

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Drop date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday November 29, 2024**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Academic Calendar:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>