

University of Victoria

**ECONOMICS 471 (CRN: 11131)**

Labour Economics II

Professor H.J. Schuetze  
 BEC 338  
[hschuetz@uvic.ca](mailto:hschuetz@uvic.ca)

Office Hours:  
 Tuesdays 10:00-11:00  
 or by appointment

**OBJECTIVES:**

This course provides an overview of some of the issues in labour economics. We will expand on the basic models of labour supply and labour demand. However the focus will be on a fairly in-depth analysis of a few topics, which may include immigration, discrimination, unions and unemployment. In addition to discussing the various theoretical models surrounding these topics we will also discuss the large empirical evidence that tests these models.

**EVALUATION:**

Evaluation in this course will consist of one midterm exam to be held in class, and a comprehensive final exam. In addition, there will be a course project, which will be described in detail during the first few weeks of class. Exams will be held according to the schedule listed below. The determination of your final grade for the course will be based on the mid-term test, which will account for 25%, the final exam will account for 50% and the remaining **25%** will be allocated to the course project.

**EXAM SCHEDULE**

Mid-Term Test: Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Final Exam: Scheduled by the Registrar

**PROBLEM SETS**

A series of problem sets will be distributed throughout the course. While these will not be graded, you are encouraged to work through the problem sets to gauge your understanding of the material.

**GRADES**

Course letter grade - numerical score (%) equivalencies used at UVic are as follows:

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
90-100	85-89	80-84	77-79	73-76	70-72	65-69	60-64	50-59	0-49

Note: E grades will not be assigned in this course. A mark below 50% will result in an F.

**TEXTBOOK**

The primary textbook for this course is Labour Market Economics, 8th edition, by Benjamin, Gunderson, Lemieux and Riddell. In addition, journal articles will be used to supplement the text. Links to articles (where available) can be found on the course web page.

## LECTURE TOPICS AND READINGS

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
<b>Introduction</b>	
<b>1. Human Capital Theory</b>	Chapter 9
<b>2. Wage Structures across Markets</b>	Chapter 10
<b>3. Immigration</b>	Chapter 11
<b>4. Discrimination</b>	Chapter 12
<b>5. Unions</b>	
I. Growth and Incidence	Chapter 14
II. Theory	Chapter 15
III. Impact	Chapter 16
<b>6. Unemployment</b>	
I. Meaning and Measurement	Chapter 17
II. Causes and Consequences	Chapter 18
III. Relationship to Aggregate Wages and Inflation	Chapter 19

\*I reserve the right to add/delete topics as the course moves along

## NOTES

**Webpage:** Copies of assignments and answers to assignments and tests will be made available through the course web page. In addition, copies of the PowerPoint slides used in class will be made available following the completion of each topic.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students are expected to observe the same standards of scholarly integrity as their academic and professional counterparts. A student who is found to have engaged in unethical academic behaviour, including the practices described in the [Policy on Academic Integrity](#) in the University Calendar, is subject to penalty by the University.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled ([Attendance Policy](#)). Students who do not attend classes must not assume that they have been dropped from a course by a department or an instructor. Courses that are not formally dropped will be given a failing grade, students may be required to withdraw, and will be required to pay the tuition fee for the course.

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An instructor may refuse a student admission to a lecture or laboratory because of lateness, misconduct, inattention or failure to meet the responsibilities of the course. Students who neglect their academic work, including assignments, may be refused permission to write the final examination in a course. Instructors must inform students at the beginning of term, in writing, of the minimum attendance required at lectures and in laboratories in order to qualify to write examinations.

Students who are absent because of illness, an accident, or family affliction should report to their instructors upon their return to classes.

**Policy on Inclusivity and Diversity:** The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.