

University of Lethbridge
Economics 3600
Labour Economics

Fall 2008

Dr. Richard Mueller

Class Time: MWF 13:00-13:50

Place: C-610

Office: D-552

Office Hours: MWF 14:00-15:00 (and by appointment)

Phone: 329-2510

E-mail: richard.mueller@uleth.ca

Website: <http://people.uleth.ca/~richard.mueller>

Required Material:

Benjamin, Gunderson, Lemieux and Riddell. 2007. *Labour Market Economics*, 6th ed. McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

Additional readings may be assigned periodically.

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to provide a theoretical and empirical treatment of the major themes in modern labour economics: labour supply and demand, the determination of wages, wage differentials, immigration, etc. The emphasis will be on the empirical studies presented in the textbook and elsewhere, especially as these relate to policy.

Course Outline (subject to change):

Introduction – Ch. 1

Part 1 – Labour Supply – Chs. 2-4

Part 2 – Labour Demand – Chs. 5-6

Part 3 – The Interaction of Labour Demand and Labour Supply – Ch. 7

Part 4 – The Determination of Wage, Chs. 8-13

Part 5 – Unions – Chs. 14-16

Part 6 – Unemployment – Chs. 17-18

Other readings as assigned.

Lectures:

Attendance in class is not mandatory and absences will not factor into the final course grade. Since not all materials are covered in the reading materials, however, students are strongly encouraged to attend class. Missing lectures will not be considered a valid excuse for inability to answer any exam question. Furthermore, important announcements will be made in class. Out of respect for all students in the class, unnecessary disruptions will not be tolerated.

Grade Determination and Absence Policy:

Final grades will be determined by weighting grades on individual components as follows:

Midterm Exam	25%
Term Paper Proposal	5%
Term Paper	30%
Class Presentation	10%
Final Exam	30%

Letter grades will be based on numerical final grades as follows:

A/A+	83.4+	C	63.4-66.6
A-	80.0-83.3	C-	60.0-63.3
B+	76.7-79.9	D+	56.7-59.9
B	73.4-76.6	D	50.0-56.6
B-	70.0-73.3	F	<50.0
C+	66.7-69.9		

If absent from any exam or otherwise unable to adhere to any deadline, the student must provide appropriate documentation giving the reason for the absence and let me know in advance of the missed deadline. Failure to do one or both of these will result in a failing grade for that course component.

Students who seek a reappraisal of any graded work must do so within one week of the work being returned to the class, otherwise such requests will not be entertained.

Students should keep all graded assignments and exams. In case of disagreement between your recorded mark and the mark on your assignment or exam, the latter will be taken to be correct.

Examinations:

There will be one midterm and one final exam. The midterm will consist of written essay questions and will be held during the regular class period on **Friday, October 17th**. The details of the exam will be announced in class. The final exam will be held during the final exam period on **Friday, December 8th** from 9:00 to 11:00.

Students are reminded that the University Final Exam Policy States that only in extraordinary circumstances may students request to write an equivalent invigilated Final Examination at other the scheduled time and place. Students are advised that holiday travel plans do not constitute an extraordinary circumstance.

Term Paper and Class Presentation:

Students will be expected to write and present to class a formal term paper. The paper should be approximately 10 pages in length (exclusive of charts, diagrams, etc.), doubled-spaced and properly referenced. For the class presentation, it will not be necessary to have a completed paper, but the presentation should be clear and include a concise introduction, a statement of the problem being investigated, the background to the problem, an evaluation of potential (and competing) interpretations, and a conclusion. Students may write on whatever topic is of interest to them (as long as it fits within the theme of the course), and the topic must be cleared with the professor in advance. This will be done by filling out a "Proposed Term Paper Topic" form that will be distributed in class. Students must fill out this form and have the approval of the professor before proceeding with the topic. This will be due in class on **Friday, September 12th**. The professor will be available for those having problems in determining an appropriate topic. Class presentations will take place throughout the semester, beginning in October. The final draft of the paper is due at the beginning of the class on **Monday, November 24th**.

Note: Depending on final class size (i.e., at the time of the add-drop deadline on September 9th) this term paper requirement might be changed so that two students will work on a single term paper and presentation.