ECON 370 - Labour Economics  
University of Victoria, Department of Economics

**Location:** David Strong Building C118  
**Times:** Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday 8:30am-9:20am  
***Note that there will be no class on Tuesday, September 25th***  
**Website:** https://maggiejones.ca/econ-370-labour-economics/

**Instructor:** Maggie Jones (maggiejones@uvic.ca)  
**Office:** BEC 392  
**Office Hours:** Wednesday 9:30am-10:30am  
**Email Response Hours:** Monday & Thursday 11:00am-12:00pm

**Teaching Assistant(s):** TBA  
**TA Office:** TBA  
**TA Office Hours:** TBA

**Description**

This course provides a general introduction to labour economics. We will begin by developing an understanding of the neoclassical models of labour supply, demand and their interaction. Weaknesses of these models in terms of their ability to describe labour market outcomes will be examined. Students will be presented with extensions to and departures from the basic model with a focus on understanding wage and employment outcomes in the labour market. Throughout the course current issues relevant to the Canadian labour market will be discussed. In addition to examining models of the labour market we will also discuss empirical evidence regarding the predictive powers of these models.

**Course Goals**

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Work through the mathematical derivations and theory behind the labour market models presented.
2. Interpret, analyze and critique basic labour market principles in economic journal articles and news articles.

**Readings**

The **required** textbook is *Labour Market Economics*, 8th edition, by Benjamin, Gunderson, Lemieux, and Riddell. Other journal articles that we will be touching on will appear on the
Evaluation

All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting your numerical course average to a letter grade according to the numerical score equivalencies used at UVic:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>65-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-64</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>50-59</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-49</td>
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The following weighting will be used to determine grades. If an assignment or midterm is missed for legitimate reasons the percentage will be transferred to the final.

1. **Assignments** 6 @ 2% each = 12% total. Assignments are designed for you to evaluate your understanding of the material and to prepare for exams. They will often consist of problems from the textbook and will be posted on the course website approximately 1 week before the due date. You may submit assignments to the dedicated assignment drop-box in the economics department before 5pm on the due date. To incentivize you to complete assignments, each one will be worth 2% of your final grade and these points will be awarded based on completion of the assignment, rather than obtaining the correct answers. **Note that partial grades will not be assigned. All questions must be complete in order to receive credit for the assignment.** Due dates are as follows:
   
   (a) A1: Sept 19th  
   (b) A2: Oct 3rd  
   (c) A3: Oct 19th  
   (d) A4: Nov 2nd  
   (e) A5: Nov 21st  
   (f) A6: Dec 5th  

2. **Midterms** 2 @ 20% each = 40% total. Two in-class exams will be administered on:

   (a) M1: Oct 5th  
   (b) M2: Nov 7th  

3. **Final** @ 48%. The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar’s office.

Course Outline

***Note that the outline is subject to change depending on how quickly we cover the material***

1. Introduction
2. Labour Supply
3. Labour Demand
4. Labour Supply and Demand Together
5. The Determination of Relative Wages
Course Policies

This course adheres to the Undergraduate Course Policies of the Department of Economics that deal with the following issues:

- Academic Concessions
- Academic Integrity (plagiarism and cheating)
- Attendance
- Grading
- Inclusivity and Diversity
- Late adds
- Late assignments
- Repeating Courses
- Review of an assigned grade
- Students with a Disability
- Term assignments and debarment from exams
- Travel Plans
- Waitlists

Course Website

Please note that the material for this course is copyrighted and is for the sole use of students registered in Economics 370. The material for this course may be downloaded for a registered student’s personal use, but shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in Economics 370. Failure to abide by these conditions is a breach of copyright, and may also constitute a breach of academic integrity.

Email Response Policy

I will be checking course related emails twice per week as outlined above under the “Email Response Hours” headline. Emails should be limited to critical matters, such as inability to attend an exam, or prolonged illness, and should include the course name and number in the subject line. Questions on course material should be asked during office hours or in class. The standard format for writing a letter must be used. This means it should begin with a salutation (e.g. Dear...), include full sentences and it must conclude with a signature that includes your full name and V#. Text message lingo should not be used.
Examinations

Attendance at all scheduled examinations is mandatory. Consideration for missed examinations will be given only on the basis of documented illness, accident or family affliction, and for no other reasons. In the event of a missed final examination, students are advised to follow the procedures outlined in the University Calendar. Students are advised not to make work or travel plans until after the examination timetable has been finalized. Students who wish to finalize their travel plans at an earlier date should book flights that depart after the end of the examination period. There will be no special accommodation if travel plans conflict with the examination.

English Language Skills: English is the language of instruction at the University of Victoria; your enrolment is taken to imply that you are functionally literate. All written work must use complete sentences and be organized in a logical, coherent manner. The mark you receive will be determined by the quality of your written response as well as by the content of your answer. Dictionaries (both paper and electronic) are not permitted in examinations. It is not practical during exams with large classes for invigilators to check dictionaries to ensure that extraneous information has not been entered.

Headgear: Caps and hats that interfere with eye contact should not be worn during exams.

Beverage and Washroom Policies: Please do not bring beverages other than water to an exam. Containers should plain, with any labels removed. It should not be necessary to use the washroom during a midterm exam, so avoid consuming diuretics such as coffee and pop immediately prior. If a medical condition necessitates frequent washroom use, this can be accommodated through the Resource Centre for Students with a disability.

Supplemental, Deferred, and Makeup Exams: Supplemental exams are not given in this course. Deferred final exams are given only on the granting of a formal university academic concession, normally only for documented medical reasons; deferred exams are normally given in July. Similarly, a makeup midterm exam normally requires documentation of an incapacitating medical condition. Be aware that the University of Victoria does not schedule its affairs around students’ outside commitments, including work schedules, travel plans, sports activities, and care for family members. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that outside commitments do not interfere with course obligations. See below for an explanation of the medical documentation required for an academic concession.

Waitlist Policies

- Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the cap on the course.
- Students on the waitlist should discuss with the instructor how to ensure they are not behind with coursework in the event they are admitted.
- Registered students who do not show up in the first seven calendar days from the start of the course may be dropped from the course.
- Registered students who decide not to take the course are responsible for dropping the course, and are urged to do so promptly out of courtesy toward waitlisted students.
• Waitlist offers cease after the last date for adding courses irrespective of published waitlists.

**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. Review What is Plagiarism for the definition of plagiarism. Note: Submitted work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

**University Policy on Human Rights, Equity and Fairness**

The University is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members. See General University Policies.

**Accessibility & Health Resources**

**Centre for Accessible Learning:** Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, you are free to approach me; however, you must register with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) for formal arrangements to be made. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

**Health Services:** University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.

**Counselling Services:** Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.

**Elders’ Voices:** The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

**Course Experience Survey (CES)**

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to the CES log-in. You will use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be completed on your laptop, tablet or mobile.
device. I will remind you nearer the time, but please be thinking about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course.

• What strengths did your instructor demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?

• Please provide specific suggestions as to how the instructor could have helped you learn more effectively.

• Please provide specific suggestions as to how this course could be improved.

Electronic Devices

In general, I discourage the use of electronics in the classroom; however, exceptions will made for students with accessibility concerns, or if you are using the device to take notes. There is mounting evidence that students learn best when they disconnect from electronic devices, but ultimately this choice is up to you. All lecture slides and notes will be posted online. As such, I do not permit photographs, videos, and voice recordings to be made of class lectures. If you object to this for reasons related to accessibility, please speak to me in office hours.