

Faculty of Science Course Syllabus
Department of Economics
Economics 3315
Labour Economics
Fall 2016

Instructor: Shelley Phipps *C14, 6220 University Ave*

Email: shelley.phipps@dal.ca

Lectures: Tuesday/Thursday 1:00 -2:30 *Computer Science 127*

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30 - 4:00 and Wednesday 1:00 -2:30

TA Office Hours: Monday, 10:00 - 1:00 *A2, 6206 University Ave*

Course Description

This course provides an overview of basic ideas in labour economics. We will consider theory, evidence and policy, all from a Canadian perspective. Examples of topics to be covered include: Why has female employment increased so much in recent decades? How do childcare costs affect desired hours of paid work by parents? Why do some people moon-light at a lower wage while others receive an over-time wage premium for extra hours of paid work? How do we evaluate the causal effect of a public policy? Do minimum wages reduce employment? What is economic discrimination and does it exist in Canada? How well do immigrants fare in the Canadian labour market? What are labour market implications of an aging workforce?

Course Prerequisites

Economics 2200 and Economics 2201 (with minimum grade of C)

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

- Understanding of basic labour market theory
- Preliminary understanding of empirical analysis in labour economics
- Knowledge of Canadian labour market policy
- Ability to present and write about economic data

Course Materials

Text

Labour Market Economics: Theory, Evidence and Policy in Canada (Seventh Edition) by D. Benjamin, M. Gunderson, T. Lemieux and W. C. Riddell.

(Used editions will provide most of the necessary material for the course.)

Course Assessment

Component	Weight (% of final grade)	Date
Midterm exam	25	Thursday, October 20 (in class)
Final exam	35	(Scheduled by Registrar)
Assignments (4)	20	
Paper	20	Thursday, December 1 (in class)

Conversion of numerical grades to Final Letter Grades follows the Dalhousie Common Grade Scale

A+ (90-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (65-69)	D	(50-54)
A (85-89)	B (73-76)	C (60-64)	F	(<50)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (55-59)		

Course Policies

There are no make-up opportunities for missed or late assignments without a valid medical excuse. The general policy for the class will be to add the weight of assignments missed *for valid, documented medical reasons* to the final exam; without a medical excuse a grade of zero will be received.

No make-ups will be offered for the mid-term. If you miss the exam *and have a valid, documented medical reason*, the weight will be added to your final exam; without a medical excuse, a grade of zero will be received.

You must pass the final exam in order to pass the class.

The term paper is due on December 1, in class. Late papers will have 1 point (5%) deduction for each day late. No papers will be accepted after December 8. You must submit a paper in order to pass the class.

In the event of university closure (e.g., for weather, health or security reasons), assignments will be due the following class; the mid-term will be written in the following class.

Course Content

- I. Introduction
 - Chapter 1 (including appendix on regression analysis)
- II. Basic Concepts
 - Chapter 2, pp. 31-39 and Chapter 16
- III. Labour Supply
 - Chapter 2, pp. 39-73 (basic theory for individuals and households)
 - Chapter 3 (labour supply and tax/transfer policies)
 - Chapter 4, pp. 113-127 (cohort versus life-cycle stages (e.g., having children, retiring))
- IV. Labour Demand
 - Chapter 5 (basic theory for competitive markets)
 - Chapter 6 (labour as a 'quasi-fixed' factor; non-wage benefits)
- V. Bringing Together Supply and Demand
 - Chapter 7 (different market structures to be considered)
- VI. Relative Wage Determination
 - Chapter 8 (compensating wages)
 - Chapter 9 (human capital)
 - Chapter 11 (Economics of immigration)
 - Chapter 12 (Economics of discrimination)

ACCOMMODATION POLICY FOR STUDENTS

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic protected under Canadian Human Rights legislation. The full text of Dalhousie's Student Accommodation Policy can be accessed here:

http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/student-accommodation-policy-wef-sep--1--2014.html

Students who require accommodation for classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the **Advising and Access Services Centre (AASC)** prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. More information and the ***Request for Accommodation*** form are available at www.dal.ca/access.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Please note that academic integrity applies to ***all work***, including assignments, papers and exams. Ask me if you have any questions.

Academic integrity, with its embodied values, is seen as a foundation of Dalhousie University. It is the responsibility of all students to be familiar with behaviours and practices associated with academic integrity. Instructors are required to forward any suspected cases of plagiarism or other forms of academic cheating to the Academic Integrity Officer for their Faculty.

The Academic Integrity website (<http://academicintegrity.dal.ca>) provides students and faculty with information on plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty, and has resources to help students succeed honestly. The full text of Dalhousie's ***Policy on Intellectual Honesty*** and ***Faculty Discipline Procedures*** is available here:

http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity/academic-policies.html

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Dalhousie University has a student code of conduct, and it is expected that students will adhere to the code during their participation in lectures and other activities associated with this course. In general:

"The University treats students as adults free to organize their own personal lives, behaviour and associations subject only to the law, and to University regulations that are necessary to protect

- the integrity and proper functioning of the academic and non – academic programs and activities of the University or its faculties, schools or departments;
- the peaceful and safe enjoyment of University facilities by other members of the University and the public;
- the freedom of members of the University to participate reasonably in the programs of the University and in activities on the University's premises;
- the property of the University or its members."

The full text of the code can be found here:

http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

The following campus services are available to help students develop skills in library research, scientific writing, and effective study habits. The services are available to all Dalhousie students and, unless noted otherwise, are free.

Service	Support Provided	Location	Contact
General Academic Advising	Help with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - understanding degree requirements and academic regulations - choosing your major - achieving your educational or career goals - dealing with academic or other difficulties 	Killam Library Ground floor Rm G28 Bissett Centre for Academic Success	In person: Killam Library Rm G28 By appointment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - e-mail: advising@dal.ca - Phone: (902) 494-3077 - Book online through MyDal
Dalhousie Libraries	Help to find books and articles for assignments Help with citing sources in the text of your paper and preparation of bibliography	Killam Library Ground floor Librarian offices	In person: Service Point (Ground floor) By appointment: Identify your subject librarian (URL below) and contact by email or phone to arrange a time: http://dal.beta.libguides.com/sb.php?subject_id=34328
Studying for Success (SFS)	Help to develop essential study skills through small group workshops or one-on-one coaching sessions Match to a tutor for help in course-specific content (for a reasonable fee)	Killam Library 3rd floor Coordinator Rm 3104 Study Coaches Rm 3103	To make an appointment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visit main office (Killam Library main floor, Rm G28) - Call (902) 494-3077 - email Coordinator at: sfs@dal.ca or - Simply drop in to see us during posted office hours All information can be found on our website: www.dal.ca/sfs
Writing Centre	Meet with coach/tutor to discuss writing assignments (e.g., lab report, research paper, thesis, poster) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learn to integrate source material into your own work appropriately - Learn about disciplinary writing from a peer or staff member in your field 	Killam Library Ground floor Learning Commons & Rm G25	To make an appointment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visit the Centre (Rm G25) and book an appointment - Call (902) 494-1963 - email writingcentre@dal.ca - Book online through MyDal We are open six days a week See our website: writingcentre.dal.ca