York University
Faculty of Graduate Studies
Department of Economics
GS/ECON 5600 Labour Economics
Winter 2024

Course Instructor

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Lecture Time and Location

Time: Wednesdays 2:30-5:30pm
Location: MC 212

Course Description

The aim of this course is to introduce students to a number of topics in labour economics, which relate to various current policy debates in Canada and around the world. The topics will be covered from both theoretical and empirical perspectives. Students will learn about a range of stylized facts related to labour market outcomes such as employment, unemployment, wage growth and wage inequality. We will discuss recent theoretical models and empirical strategies that have been developed to analyze these trends. Students will develop an empirical data project related to the labour market, which they will present at the end of the term. Students will also develop their skills by presenting a published research paper, chosen from a list provided by the instructor. By the end of the course, students will have a solid understanding of how the labour market works.

Course Text / Readings

The main (required) text for the course is **Cahuc, Carcillo, and Zylberberg, *Labor Economics,* 2nd Edition** (abbreviated **CCZ** below). Additional readings (also required) will be indicated on the course website. The course website will also include links to additional resources, including suggested reading, newspaper articles and podcasts that are relevant to each topic.

Technological Requirements

This course includes a **Data Project**, which requires you to have your **own laptop** and to use the software **Stata**. A 6-month student license for Stata/BE can be purchased for a reasonable cost from https://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/profplus/student-pricing/. Other versions of Stata are also acceptable.

If, due to financial hardship, you are unable to purchase a Stata license, please let me know.

Evaluation

The breakdown of the course grade is as follows:

Problem Sets	15%
Paper Presentation	10%
Data Project	40%
Final Exam	35%

Please note:

- Everyone is expected to attend class and participate regularly.

- **Problem Sets:** Students will work on graded Problem Sets throughout the term. Some of these will be in class and some will be completed at home. The **in-class Problem Sets** will involve using Stata, and are aimed at helping students prepare for their Data Project analysis. The **take-home Problem Sets** will be related to the theoretical material covered in class and will help students prepare for the Final Exam. Problem Sets will be posted on eClass and late submissions will not be accepted.

- **Paper Presentation:** Students will be assigned a research paper related to one of the topics covered in class. Students will prepare a presentation for the class that summarizes the paper and discusses its main strengths and weaknesses. Deadlines will be throughout the semester, depending on the assigned paper. Detailed guidelines will be provided on eClass.

- **Data Project:** Students will work individually under the guidance of the instructor on a Data Project on a topic of their choice, using real-life labour market data. Students will present their results in class, and will submit a written report of their findings. The **in-class presentation** will take place during the final lecture, and will account for **10%** of the overall course grade. The **written report** will be due on the last day of term, and will account for **30%** of the overall course grade. There are severe penalties for late submissions. These penalties, along with detailed guidelines for the requirements of the report and presentation, will be provided on eClass.

- **Final Exam:** The Final Exam will take place **during the official exam period**. A deferral for the Final Exam will be granted only for medical reasons. In such cases students should submit a deferred exam application **within 48 hours of the exam time** together with the supporting documents (e.g. doctor's note) to the Economics Department. The date and time of the deferred exam will be set at a later date. Students who may require further extensions or accommodation will have to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

Course Outline and Approximate Schedule
The following is a guide to the lecture schedule, time permitting.
Exact dates and coverage may vary.

Date	**Topics**	**Key Reading *(Detailed Reading List on Course Website)***	**Data Project Deadlines**
Jan 10	Introduction and Data Patterns		
Jan 17	Earnings Gaps and Decomposition Methods	CCZ ch 8; Fortin, Lemieux and Firpo (2011)	
Jan 24	Labour Supply	CCZ ch 1	
Jan 31	Labour Demand	CCZ ch 2	
Feb 7	Labour Market Equilibrium	CCZ ch 3	
Feb 14	Monopsony and Minimum Wages	CCZ ch 12.2	Approval of Topic Choice
Feb 21	***Reading Week – No Class***		
Feb 28	Wage Inequality	CCZ ch 10; Acemoglu and Autor (2011)	
Mar 6	Labour Market Polarization	Acemoglu and Autor (2011)	
Mar 13	Unemployment Patterns; Job and Worker Flows	CCZ ch 9.1	Preliminary Results
Mar 20	Job Search	CCZ ch 5	
Mar 27	Equilibrium Search and Matching Model	CCZ ch 9.3	
Apr 3	Data Project Presentations		Apr 8: Final Report