

School of Economics and Finance

ECON333 ECONOMICS OF WORK AND PAY

Trimester 1 2007

COURSE OUTLINE

Lecturers

Paul Calcott	RH 324	463-6585	paul.calcott@vuw.ac.nz
Malathi Velamuri	RH 314	463-6413	malathi.velamuri@vuw.ac.nz

Lectures:	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday	5:40-6:30	RH LT3
Tutorials:	Wednesday	10:30-11:20	RWW127, or
	Wednesday	11:30-12:20	RHG01

The labour market is the central concept of the course. We will examine the determinants of wages and employment; education and training; immigration; inequality and discrimination; incentives, careers and contracts; collective bargaining; economic aspects of employment law; unemployment and labour market policies. Alternative approaches will be outlined and evaluated. We will be searching for theories which are relevant to New Zealand and will consult New Zealand research findings on labour market issues.

Required background

While this is not a particularly technical course, a basic understanding of microeconomic concepts and methods will be assumed. If you are not familiar with concepts such as *indifference curves*, then you probably need to do some background reading. We will also be making use of some elementary statistical concepts such as *linear regression* and *t-statistics*, but a short review of the statistics will be provided in the course.

Note on lecture attendance

The horrific timetable slot for the lectures was beyond our control. Presumably, attendance will be inconvenient for some people. However, the lecture material will extend beyond the textbook, so missing lectures and relying on the textbook is not a safe strategy for passing the exam. We will post summary material of the lectures (Mala) or slides (Paul) on Blackboard. But if you intend to make a regular practice of missing lectures, we strongly recommend that you arrange for a friend to attend and take notes for you.

Topics	Lecturer	Chapter
1. Introduction	(Mala)	ch 1-2
2. Labour supply	(Mala)	chs 6-7
3. Human capital	(Mala)	ch 9
4. The distribution of incomes & earnings	(Mala)	ch 14
5. Discrimination	(Mala)	ch 12
6. Immigration	(Mala)	ch 10
7. Labour demand & equilibrium	(Paul)	chs 3-4, & pp129-144
8. Compensating wage differentials	(Paul)	ch 8
9. On-the-job training	(Paul)	pp145-163
10. Contracts I	(Paul)	ch 11
11. Contracts II	(Paul)	ch 11
12. Unions	(Paul)	ch 13

Textbook

The textbook ordered from the bookshop is:

R G Ehrenberg and R S Smith, *Modern Labor Economics*, 9th edition, Addison Wesley (RP, \$109.95)

However, lectures will not stick so close to this book that you couldn't use another instead.

The textbook used in 2005 is a reasonable substitute if you can find a copy.

G Borjas, *Labor Economics*, 3rd edition, McGraw-Hill.

Other readings will be made available via Blackboard.

Assessment

Assignment 1	Tues 24 April, 4:00pm	worth 25% of final grade
Assignment 2	Thurs 24 May, 4:00pm	worth 25% of final grade
3 hour final exam	30 May - 18 June	worth 50% of final grade

Assignments can be placed in box 78 on the Mezzanine floor, or handed in at the end of the lecture. Late assignments will attract a penalty of 5% a day. After being marked, assignments will be available for collection at the reception desk on the third floor of RH. Silent non-programmable calculators will be allowed in the exam.

Copies of **announcements**, assignment questions, tutorial questions, and information about supplementary readings will be posted on Blackboard. If you wish to arrange an appointment with one of the lecturers, the easiest way is by sending an e-mail.

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

Railway West Wing (RWW) - FCA Student and Academic Services Office

The Faculty's Student and Academic Services Office is located on the ground and first floors of the Railway West Wing. The ground floor counter is the first point of contact for general enquiries and FCA forms. Student Administration Advisers are available to discuss course status and give further advice about FCA qualifications. To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

Easterfield (EA) - FCA/Education/Law Kelburn Office

The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, Education and Law is situated in the Easterfield Building - it includes the ground floor reception desk (EA005) and offices 125a to 131 (Level 1). The office is available for the following:

- Duty tutors for student contact and advice.
- Information concerning administrative and academic matters.
- Forms for FCA Student and Academic Services (e.g. application for academic transcripts, requests for degree audit, COP requests).

- Examinations-related information during the examination period.

To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

General University Policies and Statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or under 'About Victoria' on the VUW home page at <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/>.

Student and Staff Conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy website at: <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StudentConduct>.

The policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at: <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StaffConduct>.

Academic Grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned; class representatives may be able to help you in this. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean; VUWSA Education Coordinators are available to assist in this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievances Policy which is published on the VUW website at: <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/AcademicGrievances>.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means **no cheating**. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other student or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalised severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website at: <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html>.

Notice of Turnitin Use

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an on-line plagiarism prevention tool which

identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting misreferencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. You are strongly advised to check with your tutor or the course coordinator if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

Students with Impairments

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the Course Coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building, telephone (04) 463 6070, email disability@vuw.ac.nz. The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the School Office or DSS.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each Faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Māori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International.

In addition, the Student Services Group (email student-services@vuw.ac.nz) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at http://www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and Faculty delegates. The Education Office (tel. (04) 463 6983 or (04) 463 6984, email education@vuwsa.org.nz) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

Manaaki Pihipihinga is an academic mentoring programme for undergraduate Māori and Pacific students in the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, and Humanities and Social Sciences. Sessions are held at the Kelburn and Pipitea Campuses in the Mentoring Rooms, 14 Kelburn Parade (back courtyard), Room 109D, and Room 210, Level 2, Railway West Wing. There is also a Pacific Support Coordinator who assists Pacific students by linking them to the services and support they need while studying at Victoria. Another feature of the programme is a support network for Postgraduate students with links to Postgraduate workshops and activities around Campus.

For further information, or to register with the programme, email manaaki-pihipihinga-programme@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5233 ext. 8977. To contact the Pacific Support Coordinator, email pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5842.