

School of Economics and Finance

## **ECON 333 LABOUR ECONOMICS**

Trimester 2, 2015

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

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#### **Names and Contact Details**

Course coordinator and lecturer: Harold Cuffe  
Office: RH 309, Ph. 463 6708  
Email: [Harold.cuffe@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Harold.cuffe@vuw.ac.nz)

Office Hours:  
Thurs. 1:30-3:30 or by appointment

Administrator: Alice Fong  
Office: RH 318, Ph. 463 5353  
Email: [Alice.fong@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Alice.fong@vuw.ac.nz)

#### **Trimester Dates**

Teaching Period: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October  
Study Period: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October  
Examination Period: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November (inclusive)

#### **Withdrawal from Course**

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2015.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an '*Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late*' form including supporting documentation. The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks or [online](#).

#### **Class Times and Room Numbers**

**Lectures:** Monday and Wednesday, 3:40-4:30pm in GBLT4

**Tutorials:** Monday 2.40pm-3.30pm in RWW221  
Tuesday 12.40pm-1.30pm in RWW125  
Tuesday 1.40pm-2.30pm in RWW125

Tutorial sign up and further details will be announced on Blackboard. In the event of any difficulties with tutorial allocation, please contact Alice Fong ([alice.fong@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:alice.fong@vuw.ac.nz); RH318).

### **Course Delivery**

This course will be delivered by two lectures per week, and a tutorial in 8 of the 12 weeks. These weeks are: 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12

### **Expected Workload**

150 hours, spread evenly over the 12 week trimester, study week and exam period.

### **Prescription**

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.

### **Course Learning Objectives**

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

1. Explain the determinants of labour demand in the short run and in the long run.
2. Use individual and household labour supply models to explain the supply side of the labour market.
3. Understand and apply the productivity and signalling models of human capital theory.
4. Explain the presence of group differences in labour market outcomes and understand different ways of empirically measuring discrimination.
5. Understand the determinants of geographic mobility and the effects of immigration on local labour markets.
6. Synthesize information on different actors and outcomes across the various labour market topics.
7. Critically evaluate academic research and studies dealing with labour economics.

### **Readings**

Though not a required text, I will draw material from:

Boeri, Tito and Jan van Ours, *The Economics of Imperfect Labor Markets*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Ehrenberg, Ronald G., and Robert S. Smith, *Modern Labor Economics – Theory and Public Policy*. 11th edition (2012), Boston: Pearson/Addison Wesley.

Additional material in the form of academic articles may be provided as well.

### **Materials and Equipment**

Students may use non-programmable calculators in exams.

### **Assessment**

The Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>.

Assessment Task	Due Date	Weighting	Learning Objectives
Assignment 1	July 29, 2015	12.5%	1,2,6,7
Assignment 2	Sept. 9, 2015	12.5%	3,6,7
Assignment 3	Sept. 23, 2015	12.5%	4,6,7
Assignment 4	Oct. 14, 2015	12.5%	5,6,7
Final Exam (2 hours.)	Exam Period	50%	1,2,3,4,5,6,7

## **Penalties**

Assignments turned in within 48 hours of due date will receive a 50% deduction. Assignments turned in more than 48 hours late will not be accepted.

## **Use of Turnitin**

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 compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and submitted to Turnitin. A copy of submitted materials will be retained 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.

## **Examinations**

Students who enrol in courses with examinations are obliged to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period. The final examination for this course will be scheduled at some time during the following period:

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November (inclusive)

## **Mandatory Course Requirements**

None

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)

## **Class Representative**

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details made available to VUWSA, the course coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the course coordinator on behalf of students.

## **Communication of Additional Information**

Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students through the VUW Blackboard website, or through your university e-mail address listed on Blackboard.

## **Student feedback**

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

[www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php)

## **Link to general information**

For general information about course-related matters, go to

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information>

## **Note to Students**

Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and academic audit. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of VBS programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

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