

School of Economics and Finance

ECON 433 LABOUR ECONOMICS

Trimester 1, 2016

COURSE OUTLINE

Prescription

This course provides alternative theories of labour markets, models and approaches to supply, demand and pricing of different types of labour.

Course Learning Objectives

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

1. Understand the principal empirical approaches to estimating key labour-market relationships;
2. Use static and inter-temporal labour supply models to explain the supply side of the labour market;
3. Understand and apply the productivity and signaling 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 how to measure neighbourhood effects and social interactions and the role of immigration and geographical mobility in the labour market

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 29th February – Friday 3rd June

Study Period: Monday 6th June – Thursday 9th June

Examination Period: Friday 10th June – Wednesday 29th June (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 11th March 2016.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 13th May 2016. 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*' including supporting documentation. The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks or [online](#).

Names and Contact Details

Harold Cuffe (course coordinator)
Room: RWW115
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Email: harold.cuffe@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hours: by appointment

Rachel Zhang (course administrator)
Room: RWW120
Email: Rachel.Zhang@vuw.ac.nz
Phone: (04) 463-6418

Class Times and Room Numbers

Thursdays 13:40-15:30 in RWW 128.

Course Delivery

Course delivery takes the form of 12 approximately 1 hour 50 minute lectures.

Readings

You will study and present journal articles and emerging scholarly work. Articles will be provided via Blackboard or available through the library.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of at least 50%, students must:

1. Complete all components of the replication project.

If you believe that exceptional circumstances may prevent you from meeting the mandatory course requirements, contact the Course Coordinator for advice as soon as possible.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Expected Workload

The workload for ECON 433 is intended to be similar to that for other 400-level ECON or FINA courses. The total expected workload is 150 hours, comprising 12-13 hours per week.

Assessment

The Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>.

The final grade will be determined by four assignments (16%), one class presentation (4%), a replication project (30%), and a two-hour final exam (contributing 50%). Assignments will be collected at the start of class.

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 10th June – Wednesday 29th June (inclusive)

Penalties

Unless an exemption has been sought and granted prior to the listed due date, late work will be accepted up to 48 hours after the due date and receive a 25 percentage point penalty.

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.

Materials and Equipment

Non-programmable calculators or ones with the memory cleared will be allowed in the exam.

Student feedback

From T1 2015

Assessed Statement	Harold's 2015 Score
"I value highly what I have learned from this course. 1 = Strongly Agree, 5 Strongly Disagree"	1.1
"Overall, I would rate the quality of this course as: 1 = Excellent, 5 = Very Poor"	1.2
"The amount of work required in this course was: 1 = Far Too Much, 3 = About Right, 5 = Far Too Little"	2.9

Changes from 2015 – Credit as a proportion of the final grade given for the replication project has been increased to reflect the workload associated with the project relative to the in-class presentation.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

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

Course documents and other information will be available on Blackboard. Announcements and presentations will be posted there.

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.
