



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
COURSE OUTLINE

SECTION A. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Faculty: Faculty of Social Sciences

Department: Department of Economics

Course Code and Title: ECON 3029 – Labour Economics

Semester: 2

Level: Undergraduate, Level III

Pre-requisites: ECON 2001 & ECON 2003 (*or equivalent*)

(override requests without the pre-requisites will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis)

Co-requisites: None

Anti-requisites: None

Course Type: Elective

Credits: 3

Mode of Delivery: Face-to-Face (F2F)

SECTION B. LECTURER INFORMATION

Lecturer: Dr. Benjamin Ramkissoon

Contact Office Hours: Mondays 12-1pm, Fridays 12-1pm

Email address: Benjamin.Ramkissoon@uwi.edu

SECTION C. COURSE DESCRIPTION

1. Course Description

This course will present theoretical frameworks in Labour Economics and their use in analysing features of the labour market. Emphasis will be placed on features of Caribbean economies. Throughout the course students will learn about essential concepts, including labour supply, labour demand, labour market equilibrium, wage differentials, education and human capital, labour market discrimination, and unemployment. Throughout the course, the presentation of theoretical material will be supplemented with discussions on the corresponding empirical literature. Knowledge of regression analysis can be useful for this purpose.

2. Rationale

The labour market is an important component of all economies. One obvious reason for this is that labour market income (wages) accounts for much of the total income for most households.

This course aims to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the way labour markets function and to introduce students to many of the strategies used by labour economists in analysing labour market issues. It is meant to be an introductory course in labour economics for students with a firm grasp of intermediate micro- and macro-economic theory. Knowledge of multiple regression analysis would be useful in this course, but is not required. This course can be considered one of the quintessential “applied micro” courses.

3. Course Aims/Goals

This course aims to develop students so that they can apply economic principles to address issues/questions related to the labour market. Where appropriate data is available, students should be able to perform empirical analysis of the labour market. Where data is lacking, students should be able to identify the information necessary to undertake a proper empirical analysis.

4. UWI Graduate Outcomes Targeted by this Course

- A Critical and Creative Thinker
- An Effective Communicator with Good Interpersonal Skills
- IT-skilled and Information Technology Literate
- Globally Aware and Well-Grounded in His/Her Regional Identity
- Socially, Culturally and Environmentally Responsible and Guided by Strong Ethical Values

5. Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyse the determinants of labour supply and demand using microeconomic models and apply these models to explain how wages and employment are determined in equilibrium.
2. Explain the factors influencing wage differentials.
3. Explain the role that education plays in earnings and the way in which the wage distribution responds to human capital investments.
4. Explain the causes and consequences of labour-market mobility.
5. Evaluate how discrimination, unions, incentive pay systems, and other labour-market institutions affect labour-market outcomes.
6. Analyse the causes of unemployment within an economy.
7. Interpret empirical literature in labour economics, including basic regression-based results, with a specific focus on Caribbean economies.
8. Apply labour-economics theory to Caribbean labour-market issues, including policy questions.

6. Teaching & Learning Strategies

The course follows a structured approach. For each topic, lectures first develop the core textbook model and its assumptions, then introduce selected extensions or complications, and finally connect the theory to empirical evidence and Caribbean labour-market issues. Tutorials are used for active learning through model-based problem solving, interpretation of empirical results, and discussion of applied policy questions. Where feasible, the lecturer may use short empirical demonstrations to show how labour economists use data to study labour-market outcomes; however, the primary emphasis remains on understanding and applying the core models of labour economics.

#	Method/Strategy	Description
1	Lectures	The lecture will first present, for each topic, the “textbook” theory, and selected extensions from the norm.
2	Reading Assignments	Students are expected to read research provided by the lecturer, along with the textbook material.
3	Discussions	A discussion of the existing academic research/empirical evidence on the topic at hand.
4	Tutorials	Students will present and discuss tutorial sheets/problem sets.

Contact Hours

Type	Number of Weeks	Contact Hours	Credit Hours
Lectures	12	24	2
Tutorials	11	11	1
Total	12	35	3

7. Course Assessments Description

Students will be assessed through a combination of continuous assessment and a final written examination. The coursework component is worth 40%. Coursework may include class-based participation, short in-class activities, and a midterm examination. Assessment will prioritize controlled tasks that provide stronger evidence of independent student learning. The final examination is worth 60% and will assess students’ ability to integrate and apply the main theories, concepts, and insights covered in the course.

8. Course Assessment Type and Course Learning Outcome Matrix

#	Assessment Title & Type	Learning Outcomes	Assessment Weight %
1	In-Class Midterm	1, 7, 8	20%
2	In-Class Quizzes/Activities	1-8	10%
3	Class Participation	1-8	10%
4	Final Exam	1-8	60%

9. University Grading Scheme (Undergraduate Level)

Grade	Percent
A+	90 – 100
A	80 – 89
A-	75 – 79

Grade	Percent
B+	70 – 74
B	65 – 69
B-	60 – 64

Grade	Percent
C+	55 – 59
C	50 – 54

Grade	Percent
F1	40 – 49
F2	30 – 39
F3	0 – 29

10. Readings/Learning Resources

Required/Essential

- Borjas, George J. Labor Economics. 9th Edition. McGraw-Hill. 2024.

Recommended Supplementary Texts

- Ehrenberg, Ronald G., Robert S. Smith, and Kevin F. Hallock. Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy. 13th Edition. Routledge. 2018.
- Angrist, Joshua D., and Jörn-Steffen Pischke. Mastering' Metrics: The Path from Cause to Effect. Princeton University Press. 2014.

STUDENT SUCCESS & SUPPORT

11. University Policies and Expectations

A. Academic Integrity

The UWI is committed to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (The UWI Turnitin Policy). Similarly, students are required to practice these values and are therefore required to be cognizant of and adhere to the UWI policies regarding academic integrity and plagiarism as outlined in its regulations found at <https://sta.uwi.edu/resources/policies/Anti-Plagiarism.pdf> and in the Faculty Regulations and Syllabuses.

“The UWI anticipates that faculty and students will preserve its reputation through the maintenance of high standards of academic integrity. For students this means that the presentation of work for evaluation, whether or not for credit, will result from sincere individual effort and genuine learning and will uphold expected standards for acknowledging the work of others. Infractions will be addressed according to the UWI Examination Regulations and the **UWI Regulations on Plagiarism (First Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates)**.

Consistent with UWI's policies Turnitin may be used in this course to compare assignment submissions with Internet sources. Submissions will be made via the eLearning system and may be retained in the global Turnitin repository. When submitting papers to Turnitin, do not include identifying information such as your name and ID number. The system will automatically show this information when the instructor is viewing your submission, but the information will not be retained in the Turnitin database.”

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use

Given that the current assessments consist of supervised in-class exams and oral/tutorial participation, the use of generative AI tools is not applicable to the assessed components.

The policy of this course for any submitted coursework assignments, however, is that AI usage is allowed with the following conditions: students must reference and include at the end of their assignment all AI tools/technologies used for the assignment, as well as state the way in which these tools were used. All output from AI tools must be carefully reviewed, edited, and verified to ensure factual accuracy and completeness. The final version of the submission must reflect your own intellectual inputs. Any use of generative AI in your submissions must adhere to ethical guidelines. Overall, you must confirm that you made a substantial contribution to the work, which has been thoroughly vetted for accuracy, and assume responsibility for the integrity of your contributions.

B. Attendance and Examination Policy

All registered students are required to attend prescribed lectures, practical classes, tutorials, or clinical instructions. Students with ***unsatisfactory class attendance*** or who have failed to submit any assessments set by his/her Examiner are subject to debarment by the relevant Academic Board, on the recommendation of the relevant Faculty Board, from taking any University examination. ***Procedures to be used to measure attendance and assessments shall be prescribed by the Faculty*** (The UWI Assessment Regulations for First Degrees, Associate Degrees, Undergraduate Diplomas and Certificates: Including GPA and Plagiarism Regulations 2017-2018, p. 3).

C. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students should refer to the University of the West Indies St Augustine Campus, Student Disability Policy. https://sta.uwi.edu/resources/policies/Student_Disability.pdf

D. Student Success Information

As a student enrolled in ECON3029, you are expected to attend all lectures/tutorials and keep abreast with all assigned readings. Research has shown that students learn best through collaboration and interaction, so I encourage you to actively participate in all classroom discussions. Seize every opportunity to get involved in meaningful cooperative learning.

E. Where Can I Go for Further Assistance?

- [Health Services Unit](#)
- [Careers, Co-Curricular and Community Engagement](#)
- [Counselling and Psychological Services](#)
- [Financial Advisory Services](#)
- [Guild Administrative Office](#)
- [Student Accommodation Office \(On and Off-Campus\)](#)
- [Student Activities, Facilities and Commuting Students](#)
- [Student Engagement Unit](#)
- [Student Life and Development](#)
- [Campus IT Services](#)

12. Course Calendar

Week	Topic	Required Reading Learning Resources	Learning Activities	Assignments	
				Name	Due Date
1.	Orientation & Introduction	Borjas, Ch. 1 + any assigned readings	Lecture	Tutorial Sheet 1	Week 2
2.	Labour Supply I	Borjas, Ch. 2 + any assigned readings	Lecture + Tutorial; In-Class Activities	Tutorial Sheet 2	Weeks 3-4
3.	Labour Supply II	Borjas, Ch. 2 + any assigned readings	Lecture + Tutorial; In-Class Activities		
4.	Labour Demand I	Borjas, Ch. 3 + any assigned readings	Lecture + Tutorial; In-Class Activities	Tutorial Sheet 3	Weeks 5-6
5.	Labour Demand II & Labour Market Equilibrium	Borjas, Ch. 3 & 4 + any assigned readings	Lecture + Tutorial; In-Class Activities	Tutorial Sheet 4	Week 6
6.	Compensating Wage Differentials	Borjas, Ch. 5 + any assigned readings	Lecture + Tutorial; In-Class Activities	Tutorial Sheet 5	Week 7
7.	Education & Human Capital	Borjas, Ch. 6 + any assigned readings	Lecture + Tutorial; In-Class Activities	Tutorial Sheet 6	Week 8
8.	The Wage Distribution & Labour Mobility (<u>asynchronous</u>)	Borjas, Ch. 7 & 8 + any assigned readings	Lecture + Tutorial; In-Class Activities	In-Class Midterm Tutorial Sheets 7 & 8	Week 8 Week 9
9.	Labour Market Discrimination	Borjas, Ch. 9 + any assigned readings	Lecture + Tutorial; In-Class Activities	Tutorial Sheet 9	Week 10
10.	Incentive Pay	Borjas, Ch. 11 + any assigned readings	Lecture + Tutorial; In-Class Activities	Tutorial Sheet 10	Week 11
11.	Labour Unions & Unemployment	Borjas, Ch. 10 & 12 + any assigned readings	Lecture + Tutorial; In-Class Activities	Tutorial Sheets 11 & 12	Week 12
12.	Course Review	All course material	Lecture + Tutorial; In-Class Activities		
13.	Study Week				

13. End of Course Evaluation Procedures:

At the end of this course, students are required to complete a course evaluation questionnaire – Course Experience Review (CER). This is an online form that students fill in anonymously to rate various aspects of their course experience and offer suggestions for improvement. The Dean, Heads of Department, and individual instructors review course evaluation reports to plan changes to future courses/programmes and make decisions related to teaching skills development, teaching methods and teaching appointments.