

**Econ 280- Introduction to Labour Economics**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**Spring 2024**

**Lecture Time:** Fridays 2:30pm to 4:20pm

**Lecture Location:** EDB 7618

**Instructor:** Serena Canaan

**Email:** [scanaan@sfu.ca](mailto:scanaan@sfu.ca)

**Office Hours:** Fridays 12:30pm to 2pm (or by appointment)

**Office Location:** WMC 2680

**Tutorial Time and Location:** please look up and attend the tutorial you are registered in

**Teaching Assistant:** Stan Hetaló

**Email:** [stan\\_hetaló@sfu.ca](mailto:stan_hetaló@sfu.ca)

**Course description:**

This course serves as an introduction to concepts, issues and policies studied in labour economics. We will cover basic economic theory and empirical analysis as it relates to the labour market. We will also discuss recent trends and policies in the Canadian labour market. Topics include labor supply and demand, wage differentials, minimum wages, unions, unemployment and unemployment insurance.

**Course prerequisites:**

Students should have taken **ECON 103** with a minimum grade of C- or **ECON 113** with a minimum grade of A-. Students who have taken COMM 280, ECON 301, **305** or **381** may not take **ECON 280** for further credit.

**Course Resources:**

The main web support for the course will be Canvas. Students need to make sure that they have access to Canvas' Econ 280 course page, and should constantly check their Canvas account for all information related to the course.

You can log into Canvas via the following link:

<https://canvas.sfu.ca>

More information about Canvas:

<https://www.sfu.ca/information-systems/services/canvas.html>

**Grading:**

Your grade will be based on tutorial attendance (5%), problem sets (15%), midterm exam (35%) and final exam (45%).

I will assign problem sets on a biweekly basis. Problem sets will be posted and should be submitted on Canvas. Every student has to hand in his/her own work and group submissions are not allowed. Problem sets must be submitted on time and no late submissions are accepted.

The problem sets constitute 15% of your final grades. I will randomly pick two of the problem sets for grading. Each of the graded problem sets will be 5% of your final grade and the remaining 5% is for problem set submission.

The midterm exam will be held on March 8 during lecture time.

Lecture and tutorial attendance are mandatory. If you miss a lecture or tutorial, it is your responsibility to take class notes from another student.

**Textbook:**

We will use selected chapters from:

Drost and Hird, *An Introduction to the Canadian Labour Market*, Nelson. 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2014.

Students are responsible for taking notes in class. I will be posting my lecture slides on Canvas.

**Tentative Course Schedule (Some topics may be added/removed):**

*Lecture 1—January 12:*

Course Introduction and Overview of the Labour Market

*Lecture 2—January 19 :*

Trends in Canadian Labour Market

*Lecture 3—January 26:*

Unemployment

*Lecture 4—February 2:*

Trends in Labour Compensation

*Lecture 5—February 9:*

Statutory Benefits

*Lecture 6—February 16:*

Statutory Benefits (continued)

*Lecture 7—March 1:*  
Review for Midterm Exam

*Lecture 8—March 8:*  
Midterm Exam

*Lecture 9—March 15:*  
Causality

*Lecture 10—March 22:*  
Minimum Wage

*Lecture 11—April 5:*  
Unions

*Lecture 12—April 12:*  
Review for Final Exam

**Course Policy:**

1. Makeup policy: If a student misses an exam, they should present a valid medical excuse. Any other excuse is NOT valid. If no valid excuse is presented, the student will receive a grade of zero on the missed exam. **There is no makeup midterm exam.** If a student misses the midterm exam AND has a valid excuse, the final grade on the course will be solely based on the final exam, assignments and attendance.
2. Cheating policy: Students are expected NOT to cheat on any assignments or exams. If a student cheats according to the cheating criteria set by SFU, the name of the student will be given to the Disciplinary Committee for action.
3. The Department of Economics seeks to promote the values of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in relation to our undergraduate and graduate students, administrative staff, sessional instructors, and faculty members. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of ethnicity/race, culture, religion, ability status, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, gender diversity, citizenship, and national origin. We commit to fostering a departmental climate that is welcoming, respectful, and inclusive as well as ensuring that departmental policies and practices are fair.

