

**Faculty of Science Course Syllabus  
Department of Economics  
Econ 3315  
Labour Economics  
Fall 2023**

***Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.***

***We acknowledge the histories, contributions, and legacies of the African Nova Scotian people and communities who have been here for over 400 years.***

**Instructor:** Prof. Michael Rushe                      michael.rushe@dal.ca

*Please allow **24 hours** for a response to any email message; **48 hours on weekends.***

**Course delivery:** Asynchronous pre-recorded lectures; quizzes and assignments are online. The midterm and final exam are in-person on campus.

This course has a Brightspace page for all registered students see for details:  
<https://dal.brightspace.com/d2l/home/281046>

**Class materials, marks, and announcements will be posted to Brightspace.** It is essential you **familiarize** yourself with how to use the Brightspace system.

**Office Hours:** Online office hours by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: TBD

**Discussion Board** - Live online help with the teaching assistant. **For all questions related to the class material, please use the Brightspace Discussion Board.**

The Discussion Board on Brightspace should be used for all course content-related questions. If you send me or the TA an email about a course content related question, we will ask you to post your question to the Discussion Board. The Discussion Board is particularly important in an online course, as it helps to generate "class discussions," allows all students to benefit from the questions and answers posted, and it allows each of you to join the discussion and help answer each other's questions, which is an excellent way to reinforce what you are learning. The TA will be monitoring the Discussion Board during the scheduled time to answer any questions. Please check the Discussion Boards often and try to help answer any questions your fellow classmates may have, as well as post questions of your own.

For technical help with McGraw-Hill check with McGraw-Hill Student Support

<https://www.mheducation.com/highered/support/student.html>

For technical help with Brightspace please contact: [helpdesk@dal.ca](mailto:helpdesk@dal.ca)

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## Course Description

This course provides an overview of basic concepts in labour economics. We will consider theory, evidence, and policy, all from a Canadian perspective. We will explore alternative approaches to economics (neo-classical, institutional, behavioural). Examples of topics to be covered this term include: Why are there good jobs and bad jobs? How would a minimum income policy affect the Canadian labour market? What are the labour market consequences of an aging population? How do childcare costs affect desired hours of paid work by parents? Does increasing the minimum wage reduce employment? Why do wages differ? What are the returns to education? How has the pandemic affected the Canadian labour market.

## Course Prerequisites

Economics 2200 and Economics 2201 (with minimum grade of C)

## Learning Objectives

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

- Understanding of basic theories of the labour market
- Preliminary understanding of empirical analysis in labour economics
- Knowledge of Canadian labour market policy
- Ability to present and write about economic data.

## Course Materials

Required Textbook: Labour Market Economics: Theory, Evidence and Policy in Canada (Ninth Edition) by D. Benjamin, M. Gunderson, T. Lemieux and W. C. Riddell. A copy of the textbook can be purchased through the Dalhousie bookstore.

## Textbooks Search

1. Select Campus (Hfx Campus Student Union Bldg)
2. Select Term
3. Select Program
- > 4. Select Course

[https://bookstore.dal.ca/CourseSearch/?course\[\]=SUB,FALL23,ECON,ECON3315,01&](https://bookstore.dal.ca/CourseSearch/?course[]=SUB,FALL23,ECON,ECON3315,01&)

You can purchase either the paper copy (\$133.17) or the digital copy, 180 day (\$59.96)

The PowerPoint Slides to accompany the recorded lectures are posted on Brightspace. These slides will help guide your studies; however, they are **NOT SUFFICIENT** readings to learn the required material.

To succeed in learning the material, you are strongly advised to read (and take notes on) the required sections of the textbook and **take notes** while viewing the recorded lectures.

### Course Assessment

Assignments (best 3/4)	15% of final grade	Two pre-midterm; two post midterm.
Brightspace Quizzes (best 8/10)	20% of final grade	Every week, except the week of the midterm starting September 18 (Monday 8:59 a.m.- 11:59 p.m. <b><u>Halifax Time</u></b> )
Midterm Exam	20% of final grade	<b><u>Tuesday, October 17</u></b> ; 2:30 p.m. LSC C244
No make-ups will be offered for students who miss the midterm exam. Instead, the midterm weight will be added to the weight of the final exam.		
Final Exam	45% of final grade	Scheduled by Registrar (December 8-19)

**Travel arrangements must not be made during this period.**

There will be **four** assignments and **10** quizzes, with the best **three** assignments and **eight** quizzes counted. More importantly, the assignments, quizzes and exercises will aid in your understanding of the material and in exam preparations. **No make-up quizzes or assignments will be offered** under any circumstances.

**Carefully read** the University and Department's Statement on Academic Integrity.

To pass the course, a student must earn an overall mark of at least 50% and **must earn a mark of 50%** or more on **the midterm and final combined**.

Grading: **GRADES ARE NOT NEGOTIABLE**. Do not contact me after the final semester grades have been posted asking me to change your grade for any reason. [Of course, if you believe your grade was posted erroneously by all means DO contact me.]

**Course Requirements:**

## Assignments:

- The assignments will be posted on Brightspace.
- You will have one week to complete each assignment.
- **Each assignment is due before 11:59 p.m. (Halifax Time) on the appointed Thursdays.**
- The best 3 out of 4 assignments will count.
- Each assignment will contain multi-part questions.

Quizzes: **On Brightspace** - - - Click on **Assessments** - - - dropdown menu **Quizzes**

- There will be 10 quizzes, starting the week of September 18 done on Brightspace.
- The best 8 out of 10 quizzes will count.
- Each quiz will contain 10 multiple choice questions.
- **Students must complete each quiz on the appointed day, within the 16-hour framework of Monday days 8:59 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Atlantic (Halifax) time.**
- Once a student begins the quiz, the student has **18 minutes** to complete the quiz.
- Although quizzes are not invigilated, students are expected to do their own work without reference to notes, the textbook, or online materials.
- Respondus Lockdown Browser will be used when taking quizzes.
- To access each quiz within Brightspace, click on Assessments and select Quizzes in the dropdown menu.
- **Quiz dates:** Monday 8:59 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., due on the following Mondays: September 18, 25; October 2, 9, 23, 30; November 6, 20, 27; and December 4 **before 11:59 p.m.**

Exams: **On Campus**

- The Midterm exam is on Tuesday, October 17 at 2:30 p.m. LSC C 244
- The Final Exam will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office during the final exam period. **Travel arrangements should not be made during this period (8 – 19 December).**
- Students must pass **Exams 1 & 2 combined**. (50% or higher) to pass the class.

In accordance with the Academic Calendar regulation 16.1 **“In order to complete a course satisfactorily, a student must fulfill all the requirements as set down in the course outline [Syllabus].”**

Note: See the Course Schedule below for the dates of Assignments, Quizzes, and Exams.

**Workload:**

Typically, you will need to spend 6-10 hours of your time each week on this course. This includes time spent watching videos, reading the textbook, and reviewing your notes.

**Important Dates:**

September 19	Last day to add fall term courses. Last day to drop fall term courses with no financial implications.
October 4	Last day to change fall term courses from audit to credit (and vice versa) Last day to drop fall term courses without a “W.”

November 2

Last day to drop fall term courses with a “W.”

**Conversion of Numerical Grades to Final Letter Grades following the Dalhousie Common Grade Scale:**

A+ (90-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (65-69)	D	(50-54)
A (85-89)	B (73-76)	C (60-64)	F	(<50)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (55-59)		

**Course Policies:**

**Missed assignments:** Considering you have one week to complete each of the assignments, and that your lowest assignment mark will be dropped, I will not accept any excuses for missed or late assignment submissions. I do not accept the Student Declaration of Absence form for missed assignments. **No make-assignments or extensions will be offered.**

**Missed quizzes:** Considering you have 16 hours to access each of the quizzes, and that your lowest two quiz marks will be dropped, I will not accept any excuses for missed or late quiz submissions. I do not accept the Student Declaration of Absence form for missed quizzes. **No make-up quizzes or extensions will be offered.**

**Missed exams:** If a student misses the midterm for a valid reason, as defined in Section 16.8 of the University Calendar (for extenuating circumstances), the midterm weight will be added to the weight of the final exam.

No make-ups will be offered for students who miss the mid-term exam. Instead, the midterm weight will be added to the weight of the final exam.

**Online access:** When connecting to online resources, you are responsible for observing any applicable laws of the country you are connecting from. You are also responsible for establishing whether you have access to all course material as soon as the term begins and before the add/drop date of September 19, 2023.

**Academic integrity:** To maintain academic integrity, students are expected to do their own work on assignments, quizzes, and exams, without reference to colleagues or online sources.

**Email policy:** I will do our best to respond to email within 24 hours on a weekday, 48 hours on a weekend, according to the following policy:

- a. I will only respond to emails posing questions that can be answered in a sentence or two. For detailed questions, please post your question to the Discussion Board or see us during office hours.
- b. I will not reply to emails that request information that can be found on Brightspace, the syllabus, or in lectures, so you should check those places first.

**Course Schedule:**

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, and Deliverables – all due times are Atlantic Time
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1. September 4 Introduction to Econ 3315
  
2. September 11 Chapter 2: Labour Supply: Individual Attachment to the Labour Market  
Read: Chapter 2.
  
3. September 18 Chapter 3: Labour Supply and Public Policy: Work Incentive Effects of Alternative Income Maintenance Programs  
Read: Chapter 3.  
Submit: Quiz 1 (Chapter 2), due Monday, September 18, 11:59 p.m.
  
4. September 25 Chapter 4: Labour Supply Over the Life Cycle  
Read: Chapter 4.  
Submit: Quiz 2 (Chapter 3), due Monday, September 25, 11:59 p.m.  
Submit: Assignment 1, due Thursday, September 28, 11:59 p.m.
  
5. October 2 Chapter 5: Demand for labour in Competitive Labour Markets  
Read: Chapter 5.  
Submit: Quiz 3 (Chapter 4), due Monday, October 2, 11:59 p.m.
  
6. October 9 Chapter 6: Labour Demand, Non-Wage Benefits and Quasi-Fixed Costs  
Read: Chapter 6.  
Submit: Quiz 4 (Chapter 5), due Monday, October 9, 11:59 p.m.  
Submit: Assignment 2, due Thursday, October 12, 11:59 p.m.
  
7. October 16 Chapter 7: Wages and Employment in a Single Labour Market  
Read: Chapter 7.  
**Midterm Exam (Chapters 2-6), on Tuesday, October 17, at 2:30 p.m.**
  
8. October 23 Chapter 8: Compensating Wage Differentials  
Read: Chapter 8.  
Submit: Quiz 5 (Chapter 7), due Monday, October 23, 11:59 p.m.
  
9. October 30 Chapter 9: Human Capital: Theory: Applications to Education and Training  
Read: Chapter 9  
Submit: Quiz 6 (Chapter 8), due Monday, October 30, 11:59 p.m.  
Submit: Assignment 3, due Thursday, November 2, 11:59 p.m.
  
10. November 6 Chapter 11: The Economics of Immigration  
Read: Chapter 11.  
Submit: Quiz 7 (Chapters 9), due Monday, November 6, 11:59 p.m.

11. November 13 **Fall Reading Week November 13 - 17**
12. November 20 Chapter 12: Discrimination and Male-Female Earnings Differentials  
Read: Chapter 13.  
  
Submit: Quiz 8 (Chapter 11), due Monday, November 20, 11:59 p.m.
13. November 27 Chapter 16: Unemployment: Meaning, Measurement, and Canada's Experience; Chapter 17: Unemployment: Causes & Consequences  
Read: Chapters 16 & 17  
Submit: Quiz 9 (Chapter 12), due Monday, November 27, 11:59 p.m.  
Submit: Assignment 4, due Thursday, November 30, 11:59 p.m.
14. December 4 Chapter 17 continued.  
Last Day of classes: Monday, December 5  
Submit: Quiz 10 (Chapter 16), due Monday, December 4, 11:59 p.m.
- Exam period Final Exam (date and time to be set by Registrar's Office). Exam period  
**December 8 – 19 - - - Travel arrangements must not be made during this period.**

### **Deliverable Due Dates & Time (Atlantic Time)**

#### **Assignments**

Assignment 1	Sunday, September 17, 11:59 p.m.
Assignment 2	Sunday, September 24, 11:59 p.m.
Assignment 3	Sunday, October 1, 11:59 p.m.
Assignment 4	Sunday, October 8, 11:59 p.m.

#### **Quizzes**

Quiz 1	Thursday, September 28, 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 2	Thursday, October 12, 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 3	Thursday, November 2, 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 4	Thursday, November 30, 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 5	Monday, October 23, 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 6	Monday, October 30, 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 7	Monday, November 6, 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 8	Monday, November 20, 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 9	Monday, November 27, 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 10	Monday, December 4, 11:59 p.m.



**Exams**

Midterm  
Final Exam

Tuesday, October 24, 2:30 p.m. LCS C244  
Scheduled by Registrar's Office during exam period (December 9-20)

## University Policies and Statements

**This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and by Senate**

### **Academic Integrity**

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility, and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity.

**Information:** [https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/academic-integrity.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html)

### **Accessibility**

The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (Canada and Nova Scotia).

**Information:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/accessibility.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html)

### **Student Code of Conduct**

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution.

**Code:** [https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html)

### **Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect**

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness.

**Statement:** <http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>

### **Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory**

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel, and support. Visit or e-mail the Indigenous Student Centre (1321 Edward St) ([elders@dal.ca](mailto:elders@dal.ca)).

**Information:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/indigenous.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html)

### **Important Dates** in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)

[https://www.dal.ca/academics/important\\_dates.html](https://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html)

### **University Grading Practices**

[https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html)

## Student Resources and Support

### Advising

**General Advising** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html)

**Science Program Advisors:** <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/current-students/academic-advising.html>

**Indigenous Student Centre:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/indigenous.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html)

**Black Students Advising Centre:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/black-student-advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html)

**International Centre:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/international-centre/current-students.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre/current-students.html)

### Academic supports

**Library:** <https://libraries.dal.ca/>

**Writing Centre:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html)

**Studying for Success:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html)

**Copyright Office:** <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html>

**Fair Dealing Guidelines** <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing.html>

### Other supports and services

**Student Health & Wellness Centre:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/health-and-wellness/services-support/student-health-and-wellness.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/services-support/student-health-and-wellness.html)

**Student Advocacy:** <https://dsu.ca/dsas>

**Ombudsperson:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html)

### Safety

**Biosafety:** <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/biosafety.html>

**Chemical Safety:** <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/chemical-safety.html>

**Radiation Safety:** <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety.html>

**Scent-Free Program:** <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>

**Dalhousie COVID-19 information and updates:** <https://www.dal.ca/covid-19-information-and-updates.html>