

# ECON 4600 ADVANCED LABOUR ECONOMICS (3 credit hours)

Elmira College

SPRING 2025

## Required Text:

1. D Sapsford(1981). *Labour Market Economics* (1st ed.). Routledge.
2. Benjamin, Gunderson, Lemieux and Riddell(1657). *Labour Market Economics* (6th ed.). McGraw-Hill Ryerson Higher Education.

Supplemental readings might be included to illustrate or expand on textbook readings.

**Pre-requisites:** ECON 2104 Intermediate Microeconomics I; ECON 2114 Intermediate Microeconomics II

## Course Description

This course offers a broad examination of labour economics concerns, delving deeper into fundamental labour supply and demand models. This course delves deeper into the study of labour markets, human capital, wage determination, labour market policies, and labour market dynamics. It is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the economic factors influencing labour markets, employment patterns, and wage disparities.

## Course Objectives and Goals

- Analyze labour market trends and dynamics using advanced economic models.
- Understand the role of human capital in labour market outcomes and economic growth.
- Examine wage determination processes, including the impact of supply and demand factors, labour unions, and government policies.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of various labour market policies, including minimum wage laws, unemployment insurance, and employment protection legislation.
- Explore topics related to labour market discrimination, gender wage gaps, and income inequality.

## Evaluation of Performance

Your grade will be based upon your performance on exams, assignments, and participation.

2 Assignments	10%
2 Quizzes	15%
3 Problem Sets	30%
2 Group Discussions	10%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A	93% and above	B-	80 - 82%	D+	67 - 69%
A-	90 - 92%	C+	77 - 79%	D	63 - 66%
B+	87 - 89%	C	73 - 76%	D-	60 - 62%
B	83 - 86%	C-	70 - 72%	F	59% or below

**Withdrawal Policy:** Please see Elmira College Bulletin for information on this policy.

**Academic Honesty:** Please read the section on Academic Honesty in the [Code of Conduct](#). Briefly, academic dishonesty includes: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. Ask if you have any questions on whether something constitutes as academic dishonesty. All work must be original and new. Past assignments from current or other courses will not be accepted. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. It will result in zero on the assignment, and a report will be filed with the school. Continued practice will result in failure of the class. Institutional penalties may also apply with repeated acts of academic honesty.

**Student Responsibility:**

- It is your responsibility to keep track of assignments and due dates.
- You should ask questions concerning assignments and lectures, if you need any clarifications.
- If you are struggling in class, have concerns, and/or unsure about expectations, please stop by during office hours or make an appointment for another time.

**Tentative Schedule of Topics**

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Materials</u>	<u>Tasks &amp; Evaluations</u>
The Economic Analysis of Labour	Chapter 1	
Human Capital Theory	Chapter 2	
Human Capital and Wage Differentials	Chapter 3	Assignment 1
Wage and Employment Determination	Chapter 4	
Wage Determination Under Collective Bargaining and the Effects of Unions	Chapter 5	
Wage Inflation	Chapter 6	Quiz 1
Wage Structures across Markets	Chapter 7	
Immigration	Chapter 8	
Discrimination	Chapter 9	Problem Set 1
The Economics of Trade Unions	Chapter 10	
Trade Unions in the UK: A Brief History	Chapter 11	Group Discussion 1
Craft Unions	Chapter 12	Midterm Exam
Trade Unions: Economic or Political Institutions?	Chapter 13	
Trade Unions and Wage Inflation	Chapter 14	
Job Attributes	Chapter 15	Assignment 2
Unemployment	Chapter 16	
The Inequality of Pay	Chapter 17	Problem Set 2
The Natural Rate of Unemployment	Chapter 18	

Unemployment and Unfilled Vacancies	Chapter 19	Quiz 2
Is Unemployment Benefit Induced?	Chapter 20	
Unemployment by Sex and Age	Chapter 21	Problem Set 3
The Relationship Between Unemployment and Unfilled Vacancies	Chapter 22	
Economic Theories of Occupational Differentials	Chapter 23	Group Discussion 2
Changes In The Occupational Wage Structure Over Time	Chapter 24	
Compensating Wage Differentials	Chapter 25	Final Exam