



Econ2192A 670
Special Topic: Economics of Education
Summer 2026

Instructor: Sunghoon Cho
Email: scho83@uwo.ca

Course Information

Mode of Instruction: Asynchronous

Calendar Description:

This course provides an introduction to various topics in the economics of education. Using both theoretical and empirical economic models, the education system and policies are analyzed. Topics include human capital theory, signaling model, education production function, financing public education, cost-benefit analysis of education, teacher incentives, and test-based accountability. Microeconomic theories, basic econometric models, and some experimental/behavioral methods will be reviewed and applied in the analysis.

Pre-requisite(s): Economics 1021A/B and Economics 1022A/B.

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: CATEGORY A

Subject Code: ECONOMIC

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Special Topics - Economics of Education
Economics 2192A-670
Summer 2026

Instructor: Sunghoon Cho
Email: scho83@uwo.ca
Office hours: via Zoom by appointment
Delivery mode: Online Asynchronous
Course website: <https://westernu.brightspace.com>

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to various topics in the economics of education. Using both theoretical and empirical economic models, the education system and policies are analyzed. Topics include human capital theory, signaling model, education production function, financing public education, cost-benefit analysis of education, teacher incentives, and test-based accountability. Microeconomic theories, basic econometric models, and some experimental/behavioral methods will be reviewed and applied in the analysis.

Prerequisites:

Economics 1021A/B and Economics 1022A/B.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful conclusion of the course, students will gain the capacity to:

1. Apply basic theoretical concepts of microeconomics to the education sector.
2. Understand how economic theory and empirical methods are applied to questions of human capital, public finance in education, education production, labor markets for teachers, choice and accountability, and higher education.
3. Read, interpret, and analyze findings in the economics of education.
4. Identify and analyze policy implications of insights from the economics of education.

Technical Requirements

- Laptop or computer
- Stable internet connection
- Microphone (for online exams and Zoom office hours)
- Webcam (for online exams and Zoom office hours)

Required Textbook:

Lovenheim, Michael and Sarah Turner, Economics of Education, Worth Publishers, 2017

Evaluation:

Assessment	Weight	Length	Date	Time
Onboarding Quiz	5%	10 minutes	Due May 15	11:59 pm
Midterm 1	25%	90 minutes	May 16	8:00-9:30 pm
Midterm 2	25%	90 minutes	May 30	8:00-9:30 pm
Final	45%	120 minutes	June 13	7:00-9:00 pm

All times are ET. All dates and times are tentative and subject to change.

All of the quizzes and exams will be online via OWL-Proctortrack and in multiple choice format.

For the midterm, you will be given 90 minutes to complete the exam within a 2-hour window. Once you begin the exam, you will have 90 minutes or until the closing time (9:00 pm), whichever is shorter. The 30 minutes extra time exists just in case you run into any technical difficulties. It does not exist for you to start 30 minutes late. Therefore, starting at 7:30 and running into a technical problem cannot be an excuse to get extra time.

The exams are open-note. Only hand-written notes will be allowed to be used. No electronic devices including computer, tablet PC, cell phone, smart watch, smart glasses, headphones, earphones, and headsets are allowed. No online help (chat, search engine, chatGPT, etc) is allowed either. Also, the exams are INDIVIDUAL assessments. You may not talk to other people during the quiz, nor share any information about the quizzes before/during/after the quiz times. Taking screenshots is strictly prohibited. Students found guilty of cheating in any form will be subject to academic sanctions that could include a failing grade or being barred from future registration in Economics courses or programs, and the University may impose further penalties such as suspension or expulsion).

Students with conflicts in schedule with the exams (other exams, religious reasons, varsity sports etc) will be given a make-up exam conditional on approval by the academic dean's office in advance. Students seeking religious accommodations for any coursework must make such requests to academic counselling at least one week in advance (and at least two weeks in advance for final exams). After academic counselling has been contacted, you must then notify your instructor. The midterm 2 is not eligible for undocumented academic consideration.

For all other approved absences, including medical, compassionate, and self-reported absences, the weight of the missed midterm will be transferred to the final exam weight. Students who have an approved absence from the final exam will be given a make-up for the final exam. The make-up exams may differ in length and format from the original ones. The make-up final exam may include essay format.

Proctortrack Onboarding Quiz:

All of the quizzes and exams will be proctored via ProctorTrack.

You **must complete an onboarding quiz (via Proctortrack) by 11:59 PM on May 15th (Eastern time)**. Completion of the onboarding quiz is 5% of the marks, and there will be zero leniency regarding the deadline. You complete the onboarding quiz by May 15th, 11:59 PM, you get 5% of the mark. If not, you lose 5% of the course mark.

The onboarding quiz will have 3 easy questions (with obvious answers), and you can take it an unlimited number of times. You do not need to prepare anything for this. It is not meant to test you. The purpose of an onboarding quiz is to give students **an opportunity to install and test the Proctortrack software** before entering a higher-stakes exam environment. During this process, you can ensure Proctortrack is compatible with your computer during low-pressure circumstances while becoming familiar with the testing environment. Once the onboarding quiz has been uploaded and processed, your profile is created. This profile is used to verify your identity for each assessment. It is **important that you onboard as soon as possible** to ensure you have enough time to fix any problems with your computer or onboarding profile well before your exam.

You can find the onboarding quiz in the Proctortrack tool in Brightspace.

Brightspace – Content – Quizzes and Exams – Proctortrack – Onboarding Quiz (click “Go To Test”) – install Proctortrack

After you verify yourself with a government issued photo ID, somewhere on the bottom right corner, there is a blue button you can click and obtain the password for the quiz.

Additional resources: https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca/student_resources

Also, you can go to remoteproctoring.uwo.ca and chat with a support team member if you run into any problem.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ONBOARDING QUIZ AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!

Email and Communication Policy

Students must use their uwo email address when emailing the instructor so it does not end up in spam and can be verified. **Subject line must include course and section number and should include the topic of the email.** Emails need to be respectful and concise listing your issues, what you have done to solve it, and what you hope the faculty member can help you with. All course changes and updates will be communicated via the OWL course website, so please check the website frequently.

Chapters Covered*

Introduction and Background

- Ch 1: Why do Economists Study Education Policy?
- Ch 2: The Structure and History of Education Markets
- Ch 3: Empirical Tools for Education Economics

The Foundations of Education Production and Investment

- Ch 4: The Human Capital Model
- Ch 5: The Signaling Model: An Alternative to the Human Capital Framework
- Ch 6: Returns to Education Investment
- Ch 7: Education Production Function

Elementary and Secondary Education Policy

- Ch 8: Financing of Local Public Schools
- Ch 9: The Relationship between Education Inputs and Outcomes
- Ch 11: Test-Based Accountability and Teachers' Labor Markets
- Ch 12: Teacher Labor Markets

Higher Education Policy

- Ch 13: Market Dimensions of Higher Education
- Ch 14: Student Financial Aid Policies and Collegiate Enrollment
- Ch 15: The Economics of College Life: Admissions, Peer Effects, and Graduation

*Depending on the speed of our course, we may not go through all of these chapters.

*We may also cover some topics that are not in the textbook.

King's University College General Course Policies 2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at [here](#).

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course. Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course. For further information, please see:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising/academic-consideration-requests-and-student-absence-portal>

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/exams/index.html.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/personal-counselling>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising>

GBSV Support:

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/campus-safety-and-reporting/gender-and-sexual-violence>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/campus-safety-and-reporting/student-code-of-conduct>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at [here](#).

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with you instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/OriginalityReports-TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member.

Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.