



Econ3344A 570
Advanced Labour Economics I
Fall 2026

Instructor: Jason Dean, PhD
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Course Information

Mode of Instruction: In-Person

Calendar Description:

A study of the labour market, including wage and employment determination, labour force participation, investment in labour market skills and unions.

Pre-requisite(s): Economics 2261A/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.

Course Syllabus

Advanced Labour Economics I

ECON 3344A (Sec 570)

Fall 2026



Professor	Dr. Jason Dean
Contact	jidean26@uwo.ca
Office Hours	Fridays, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., and by appointment in person or on Zoom. Office location is posted on the course OWL site.
Mode of Instruction	In person
Course Website	OWL Brightspace. Class times, room assignment, lecture notes, readings, assignments, and grades are posted there.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an advanced treatment of labour economics with a strong emphasis on empirical method. It develops the econometric strategies used in applied labour research and applies them to the central questions of the field. Students will review linear regression and learn the identification strategies economists use to estimate causal relationships, including fixed effects, difference-in-differences, instrumental variables, and regression discontinuity. Students will then apply those tools to core topics in the field, including human capital acquisition, the economics of immigration, and labour market discrimination. Special topics are also examined, including the labour market consequences of fertility, crime, and education-job mismatch. The course also includes an applied team project through ImpactLab London, a partnership between the City of London and local post-secondary institutions, in which student teams apply the tools of labour economics and Canadian labour market data to a workforce question drawn from the City's Economic Development Strategy and present policy-relevant recommendations to a City audience.

PREREQUISITE(S): Economics 2261A/B.

EXTRA INFORMATION: 3 lecture hours

COURSE WEIGHT: 0.50

SUBJECT CODE: ECONOMIC

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Explain the empirical strategies used to estimate causal effects in the applied labour literature, and identify the assumptions each strategy requires.
- Apply the analytical tools of modern labour economics to evaluate labour market policies pursued by governments.
- Read, interpret, and critically assess the results of empirical studies in labour economics.

- Work in a team to apply the tools of labour economics and Canadian labour market data to an applied economic development question for a community partner, and communicate the evidence, findings, and recommendations to a non-academic audience in a written report and an oral presentation.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

- Benjamin, Dwayne, et al. *Labour Market Economics*. 9th Canadian ed., McGraw Hill Ryerson, 2021. ISBN 9781259654848.

The textbook is required and is available at the Western Bookstore. Approximate costs: the e-book is about \$59 for a 180-day rental or about \$99 to own, and the print edition is priced separately. These figures are approximate, and exact current pricing for every format is on the publisher and bookstore pages below. A used copy is an acceptable alternative, but you should obtain the most recent edition.

Publisher pricing for Labour Market Economics, 9th Canadian edition: [McGraw Hill Canada product page](#)

Campus pricing: [Western Bookstore](#)

All journal articles listed in the weekly schedule are available at no additional cost through Western Libraries or are posted on the course OWL site. There are no other required materials, field trips, or fees associated with this course.

Technology Requirements

You will need a reliable internet connection and a computer or tablet to access the course OWL site, the assigned readings, and the assignment files. Presentation software and a spreadsheet or statistical package (Excel is sufficient) are required for the ImpactLab London project. A non-programmable calculator is required for the midterm and final examinations.

IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Event
September 9, 2026	First day of classes, Fall Term
September 17, 2026	Last day to add a Fall half course or a full course
September 18, 2026	ImpactLab London project introduction and team formation (in class)
September 30, 2026	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (non-instructional day)
October 10 to 18, 2026	Fall Reading Week (no classes, no assessments due)
October 12, 2026	Thanksgiving (College closed)
October 30 or November 6, 2026 (to be confirmed)	ImpactLab London mid-term check-in with the City of London and partner teams, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., during class time. Graded progress presentations (5%)
November 30, 2026	Last day to drop a Fall half course or a full course without academic penalty
December 9, 2026	Last day of classes, Fall Term
December 2026 (date to be announced)	Winning ImpactLab team presents to the City of London and partners
December 10, 2026	Study day
December 11 to 22, 2026	Mid-year examination period

EVALUATION PLAN

Assessment	Weight	Date
Assignments (3 at 5 percent each)	15%	Due October 9, November 6, and December 4
ImpactLab London Project (team)	20% (5 + 7.5 + 7.5)	Progress presentation (5%) at the ImpactLab mid-term check-in, during class time, October 30 or November 6 (to be confirmed); final presentations (7.5%) November 27 and December 4, in class; policy report (7.5%) due December 4
Midterm Examination	25%	October 23, in class
Final Examination	40%	Scheduled by the Office of the Registrar, December 11 to 22
TOTAL	100%	
<i>Note: The midterm examination is the one assessment in this course designated as requiring formal supporting documentation for academic consideration.</i>		

Assignments

- Assignments will be posted on OWL at the beginning of the term. Completed assignments must be submitted at the start of class on the due date listed above.
- Late assignments are not accepted and will receive a grade of zero.
- If you receive approved academic consideration for a missed assignment, the weight of that assignment will be transferred to the remaining assignments. If no assignments remain, as is the case for Assignment 3, the weight will be transferred to the final examination. This built-in flexibility is intended to cover ordinary short-term disruptions.
- Marked assignments will be returned in class. Assignment 3 falls on the last class meeting, so it will be marked and returned through OWL.

ImpactLab London Project

- In this experiential learning project you will work in teams as part of ImpactLab London, a collaboration between the City of London and local post-secondary partners (Fanshawe College, Huron University, King's University College, and Western University). Teams are assigned an economic development topic for London, Ontario connected to the City's Economic Development Strategy (2026 to 2030). This term the project supports the City's work on a Workforce Navigation Tool, in partnership with the Elgin Middlesex Oxford Workforce Planning and Development Board. You will research the issue, analyze labour market evidence, and produce practical, policy-relevant recommendations for a City audience.
- The project is worth 20 percent of the final grade. It consists of a progress presentation at the ImpactLab mid-term check-in (5 percent), a final presentation in class (7.5 percent, November 27 or December 4), and a concise written policy report summarizing the evidence, analysis, and recommendations (7.5 percent, due December 4 through OWL). Teams of four to five students will be formed in Week 2. Detailed project guidelines, the assigned research questions, and the marking rubric will be posted on OWL in the first two weeks of the term.
- Team roles and presenting. Each team designates one or two presenters for the in-class presentations and for any City-facing opportunities, while the remaining work is divided across roles such as research, data analysis, writing, slide preparation, and question and answer support. Each team submits a short

statement of who did what with the final report. Members of a team normally receive the same grade, but the instructor may adjust individual grades where contributions are clearly unequal.

- City of London staff and partners will introduce the program in September and will host a mid-term check-in for all ImpactLab teams by videoconference on Friday, October 30 or Friday, November 6, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. (date to be confirmed). The check-in falls within our regular class time and the whole class attends; each team's designated presenter gives a short progress update to the City and its partners, and this update, together with the team's slides, is the graded progress presentation. A winning team will be selected on the basis of the in-class final presentations and will present its work to the City of London and its partners; more information on this will be provided in class. Final deliverables are shared with the City and its partners in December.
- A student who is unable to present on the assigned date because of approved academic consideration will be rescheduled to the other presentation date, or, if neither date is possible, will contribute through the written report and a recorded presentation submitted before the last day of classes. Academic consideration for the report is handled through the Academic Advising Office and applies to the individual student, not the team.

Midterm and Final Examinations

- The midterm examination will be held in class on Friday, October 23, 2026. The final examination is scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during the mid-year examination period, December 11 to 22, 2026.
- You are required to write both examinations at the scheduled time.
- Both the midterm and the final examination are closed-book. No notes, textbooks, formula sheets, or other aids are permitted, apart from the non-programmable calculator described below.
- Academic consideration for the midterm examination requires formal supporting documentation submitted to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty or college of registration. Students granted consideration write a make-up midterm. Make-ups are held on Fridays, and the date is arranged through the Academic Advising Office and confirmed on OWL.
- Academic consideration for the final examination is handled by the Academic Advising Office through the Special Examination process described in the appended General Course Policies.
- The examinations combine multiple-choice and short-answer questions, with a rough balance of conceptual, knowledge-based, and quantitative or graphical material. Further detail on coverage and structure will be provided in advance of each examination date.
- Only non-programmable calculators are permitted. If you are unsure whether your calculator qualifies, ask the instructor before the examination.
- All other electronic devices, including cell phones, smart watches, and programmable calculators, are prohibited during examinations.

TENTATIVE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

This schedule is tentative. Any change will be announced in class and posted on OWL.

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Assessments
1	Sep 11	Introduction and course overview. Labour economics, review of key concepts	Instructor notes	

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Assessments
2	Sep 18	Linear regression review. The Mincer earnings regression. ImpactLab London project introduction and team formation	Instructor notes	
3	Sep 25	Identification strategies for causal relationships	Angrist and Krueger (1999), Sec. 1 and Sec. 2.1 to 2.3	
4	Oct 2	Fixed effects and difference-in-differences. Instrumental variables. Regression discontinuity	Instructor notes	
5	Oct 9	Human capital theory. Application to education and training	Benjamin Ch. 9	Assignment 1 due
October 10 to 18: Fall Reading Week. No class, no assessments due.				
6	Oct 23	Midterm Examination, covering Weeks 1 to 5		Midterm Examination (25%)
7	Oct 30	The economics of immigration	Benjamin Ch. 11, Chiswick (1978), Borjas (1985)	ImpactLab mid-term check-in and progress presentations (5%), Oct 30 or Nov 6, to be confirmed
8	Nov 6	Labour market discrimination. Oaxaca decomposition	Benjamin Ch. 12, Schirle (2015)	Assignment 2 due
9	Nov 13	The economics of fertility and labour	Doepke et al. (2022)	
10	Nov 20	Education-job match.	Sittinger (2012), Robst (2007)	
11	Nov 27	ImpactLab London final presentations		ImpactLab final presentation (7.5%)
12	Dec 4	ImpactLab London final presentations		Assignment 3 due. ImpactLab final presentation (7.5%) and policy report due (7.5%)
December 11 to 22: Final examination period. The final examination is scheduled by the Office of the Registrar.				

Reference List for Assigned Readings

- Angrist, J. D., and Krueger, A. B. (1999). Empirical strategies in labor economics. Handbook of Labor Economics, Vol. 3, Elsevier, 1277 to 1366.
- Borjas, G. J. (1985). Assimilation, changes in cohort quality, and the earnings of immigrants. Journal of Labor Economics, 3(4), 463 to 489.

- Chiswick, B. R. (1978). The effect of Americanization on the earnings of foreign-born men. *Journal of Political Economy*, 86(5), 897 to 921.
- Doepke, M., Hannusch, A., Kindermann, F., and Tertilt, M. (2022). The economics of fertility: A new era. NBER Working Paper No. 29948.
- Freeman, R. B. (1999). The economics of crime. *Handbook of Labor Economics*, Vol. 3, 3529 to 3571.
- Robst, J. (2007). Education and job match: The relatedness of college major and work. *Economics of Education Review*, 26(4), 397 to 407.
- Sattinger, M. (2012). Assignment models and quantitative mismatches. Prepared for the expert workshop on skill mismatch and firm dynamics.
- Schirle, T. (2015). The gender wage gap in the Canadian provinces, 1997 to 2014. *Canadian Public Policy*, 41(4), 309 to 319.

GRADE DESCRIPTORS

Grade	Range	Descriptor
A+	90 to 100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80 to 89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70 to 79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60 to 69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50 to 59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Generative artificial intelligence tools, including ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Copilot, translation tools, and grammar checkers, may be used in this course only to polish work you have already produced. Polishing means editing for clarity, grammar, structure, and readability. The ideas, the arguments, the analysis, and the interpretation must be your own. You have to do the legwork yourself.

You may not use these tools to generate ideas or arguments that you then submit as your own, to produce an answer you have not reasoned through, or to summarize material you have not read. Work built that way is easy to recognize, because it reads as broad, generic, and superficial. Superficial analysis is marked down heavily in this course. Marks are earned through depth, specificity, engagement with the actual readings and data, and evidence that you worked the problem yourself.

If you use an AI tool for any permitted purpose, acknowledge it and state what it did. Generative AI is not permitted at any point during the midterm or final examination. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline under the Western Scholastic Discipline policy referenced in the appended General Course Policies.

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

2026-2027

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 <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

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://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

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 (under Special Examinations).

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://kings.uwo.ca/community/library/services/accessibility/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/campus-life/student-supports/>

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/mental-health/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King's (Western) is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

Mental Health and Wellness at King's - King's University College

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.

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.

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://kings.uwo.ca/sites/2025/assets/files/about/governance/policies/board/Board%20Policy%203_1%20Code%20of%20Student%20Responsibilities%20and%20Conduct.pdf

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 https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

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 your 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/Originality Reports - 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.