ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY
Department of Economics

Human Resources & Labour Economics
ECONOMICS 361:10 – Fall 2025

Lectures (MULH4022):
Tuesday 11:30 am – 12:45 pm
Friday 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

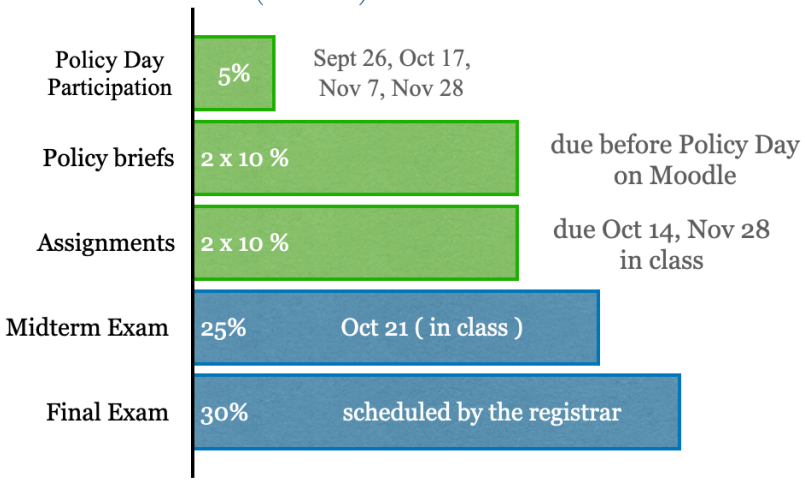
Student hours (MULH 3043a):
Monday 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

If my student hours can't fit your schedule, just let me know, and I'll do my best to find a time that works. And if you see my door open, feel free to drop by—I'd be happy to chat with you.

Professor: Anastasiia Suvorova

asuvorov@stfx.ca MULH 3043a

Assessments overview (tentative):



Welcome to ECONOMICS 361!

Course overview

Do you plan to pursue a Master's degree or an MBA? When will you start working, and how many hours will you devote to your career while still maintaining your personal life? Should you be concerned that AI tools like ChatGPT might change the kinds of jobs available?

In this course, we study the economic models that help make sense of these choices: decisions about education and labour supply, and the ways government policies influence them. We also examine how employers make hiring decisions, and how policies, market structures, and discrimination shape those outcomes. Finally, we learn to interpret findings from academic research in labour economics and practice applying economic modelling tools to analyze current labour market issues and policies.

Prerequisites

Econ 201

Course Materials

The primary source of information will be **lectures and lecture materials**.

Textbook (recommended, not required):
Benjamin, Gunderson, Lemieux, Riddell, Schirle. *Labour Market Economics*, 9th edition. McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2021. (Referred to as BGLRS)

- Suggested readings and practice problems will be assigned from the textbook.
- A copy is available for **3-hour rental** at the library.

Course website: Moodle (main course portal).

Course Outline (tentative)

Topic	BGLRS Chapter(s)
Introduction and Overview	–
Labour Supply and Government Policies	
– The theory of labour supply	Ch. 2
– Labour supply over the life cycle	Ch. 4
– Labour supply and public policy	Ch. 3
Demand for Labour and Labour Market Structures	
– Demand for labour in a competitive market	Ch. 5
– Wages and employment in a single labour market	Ch. 7
Human Capital Theory	
– Applications to education and training	Ch. 9
Discrimination	Ch. 12
Immigration *(if time permits)*	Ch. 11
Unions *(if time permits)*	Ch. 14

This list of topics is tentative; the schedule may shift slightly as the semester progresses.

Assessment

Participation in Policy Days (5%) Policy Days (tentative): Sept 26, Oct 17, Nov 7, Nov 28

Policy Days are a chance to connect course concepts to real-world issues. Your grade is based on attendance (2 points) and the quality of your contributions (3 points). On the first day of class, we will decide together which topics to cover.

If speaking in class feels difficult, please come by my student hours or email me before September 24. We can set up another way for you to participate, but you will still need to attend all Policy Days.

Policy Briefs (20% total: 2 × 10%) Due: before the related Policy Day (upload to Moodle)

You will complete **two policy briefs** (up to 1,000 words each), choosing any two of the Policy Days to submit them. You may work individually or in teams of up to three people; if you work in a team, everyone will receive the same grade. Briefs must be uploaded to Moodle before class on the chosen Policy Day. Late submissions won't be accepted, so please plan ahead.

I'll share detailed instructions a week in advance, along with the reading list for that Policy Day. Each brief must use at least two academic papers from the list. Meeting the minimum will cover the requirement, but the strongest briefs will draw on more sources and use them effectively. Your grade will reflect both the number of reliable sources you use and how well you integrate them into your argument.

Assignments (20% total: 2 × 10%) Due: Oct 14 and Nov 28 (submit in class)

There will be two assignments (10% each). They will be posted at least a week before the due date. Some parts may ask you to create your own questions to test specific concepts.

You may hand in one assignment late (in the next class after the due date) without penalty if you let me know by email before the deadline.

Midterm Exam (25%) Tentative date: Oct 21 (in class, 1 hour 15 minutes)

Final Exam (30%) Scheduled by the Registrar during finals week

- 2 hours, cumulative, covering all course material.
- If illness or another serious, unexpected issue prevents you from writing the final, notify the Office of the Assistant Vice-President, Academic Affairs (ada@stfx.ca) within 48 hours. You'll be given an "IN" grade and write on an alternate date.
- Extra work cannot be assigned to make up for low grades, to keep grading fair for everyone.

Use of AI

Exams

You may not use AI or collaborate during exams. All exam submissions must be your own individual work.

Policy Briefs and Assignments

Assessments must be your own original work and use only reliable sources connected to our class materials**.** Submissions will be checked against internet databases to confirm academic integrity, including the detection of material produced with artificial intelligence tools.

Generic AI tools often create fake references, unreliable information, or writing that can be recognized as artificial. In professional settings, work that appears AI-generated will undermine your credibility.

Missed Exams & Lectures You are expected to attend all lectures and midterms will be scheduled during class time.

Drop date You can drop this course, online in Banner, on or before November 5. The drop date is set by the registrar.

Communication

Email is the main form of communication beyond lectures or student hours. I will monitor emails daily during business days, so you will generally receive a response in 24 – 48 hours. I may check email on weekends and holidays, but it will be at my discretion.

Use of electronic devices

Exams: You can only use non-programmable calculators during exams. Unless you have medical accommodations that require use of electronic devices, or you receive an explicit permission from me before the exam, you may not use other electronic devices (ex. cellphones, smart phones, smart watches, laptop/notebook/netbook computers, headphones, etc.) during exams.

Lectures: You can use electronic devices only for learning purposes during class time. Other use of cell-phones and laptops will be distracting for you, me, and your classmates.

General information

Learning environment

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe, and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space – both real and virtual – that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination, and respect for diversity.

Copyright notice

These course materials are designed for use in Course Fall 2025 ECON 361:10 at StFX University and are the property of the instructor, unless otherwise stated by the instructor. Copying this material for distribution, online posting, or selling of this material to third parties without permission is subject to Canadian Copyright Law and is strictly prohibited.

Academic integrity

Students are encouraged to read section 3.8 of the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar.

Raising Concerns about Instruction or Instructor Conduct

StFX is committed to maintaining a respectful and inclusive academic environment where all members of the community feel empowered to express concerns. If you have questions or reservations about an instructor's teaching or behaviour, please follow the steps below:

1. Speak with the Instructor
Whenever possible, begin by discussing your concern directly with the instructor. You can request a meeting by contacting them at asuvorov@stfx.ca**.** Open, respectful dialogue is often the most effective path to resolution.

2. Contact the Department Chair
If the issue remains unresolved, or if you prefer to speak with someone else, contact the Chair of the Department to which the instructor belongs. The Chair can help mediate the situation and work with you to identify appropriate solutions. The Chair can be reached at gtkacz@stfx.ca.
If the instructor is also the Department Chair, or if you do not feel comfortable contacting the Chair, proceed to Step 3.

3. Reach out to the Dean's Office
As a final step, you may contact the Dean's Office at **nkaur@stfx.ca**. The Dean's Office can assist you in arranging a meeting and provide further guidance on how to address your concern.