
MOS 3352G Section – 001

Industrial and Labour Relations

Winter 2020

Course Outline

1. Course Information:

1.1 Class Location and Time:

Room: FIMS & Nursing (FNB-2240), Mondays, 9:30-12:30 p.m.

1.2 Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Jody Merritt

Office: SSC 4434

Office Hours: The best way to contact me is by OWL email. I will do my best to respond to your emails as quickly as possible. If you would like to meet in person, please email me to set up a meeting. Email turnaround time of one business day.

Email: jmerrit9@uwo.ca

DAN Department of Management & Organizational Studies strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

More information about “Accessibility at Western” is available at: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca>

2. Calendar Description:

2.1 Course Description:

This course examines the economic, social, legal and political relationships among labour, management and the state with emphasis on organized labour and unionized workplaces in Canada.

3 lecture hours, 0.5 course

Antirequisite(s): None

Prerequisite(s): Enrollment in third or fourth year of BMOS

2.2 Senate Regulations:

Senate Regulations state, “unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will 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.”

This regulation is in regard to the COURSES required. Students not in BMOS are permitted to enroll in up to 1.0 MOS courses, per the Academic Timetable.

3. Textbook/Additional Readings/Course Resources:

The following textbook is required reading for this course and is available in the bookstore at Western:

Suffield, Larry J., & Gannon, Gary L. (2020). *Labour Relations*. 5th Edition. Toronto: Pearson. It is strongly recommended that you purchase the textbook as it will be used extensively.

In addition to the above text, students are required to read a set of articles available in the form of links on the course site (under the "Additional Readings" tab). Please ask the instructor if you require assistance in obtaining these course readings. The purpose of these articles is to provide students with the opportunity to read, understand and appreciate scholarly research papers.

All course resources will be posted prior to the start of each class (i.e. power points, readings, etc.).

4. Course Objectives and Format:

The DAN Department of Management and Organizational Studies as a whole draw upon an evidence-based management approach. Evidence-based management is the systematic process of gathering evidence from multiple sources, critically appraising the evidence, and using that evidence in making and evaluating management decisions to improve organizational performance.

4.1 Course Objectives:

This course is an introduction to the field of industrial relations and labour studies. We will spend most of our time on how employers and employees interact under the regime of collective bargaining. That is, this course is primarily about employer-worker interactions where trade unions represent workers. Our focus will be on Canadian examples and legislation, but we will also examine some aspects of industrial relations systems around the world. Inherent in the employment relationship is a degree of conflict as employers and employees often have differing interests. As such, the real world of work involves an ongoing process of conflict and accommodation as workers, their managers and their employers negotiate the frontier of workplace power and control.

Trade unions have a large impact upon private and public enterprise in Canada. About 30% of those employed are covered by collective agreements. The wages and benefits of still more working Canadians are influenced by the collective bargaining done by unions and employers. Everybody at some time or another has been affected by strikes or other industrial conflict. As a result, an understanding of unions is important for those aspiring to be managers, supervisors or human resource practitioners and also for those who may one day find themselves to be union members or aspiring union members. An understanding of workplace issues and worker rights is also important for all workers.

4.2 Course Format:

This course will involve lectures, discussions, case studies, class exercises and video presentations. It is expected that students will have completed the assigned readings and other preparation prior to class so that they can actively participate in class discussions. Class attendance is highly recommended because not all material covered in the class lecture will be covered in the readings. At the same time, not all material covered in the readings will be discussed in lecture.

5. Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Describe the basic structural framework of industrial relations in Canada and apply this understanding to compare/contrast the Canadian context with other countries and assess the evolution of the industrial relations framework over time. This includes the:
 - a. External economic, social, technological, political, legal and social forces that impact employment relationships;
 - b. Characteristics and interactions of key actors in the employment relationship (labour, management, government) and;
 - c. Governing rules derived from these relationships.
2. Summarize the key perspectives of industrial relations regarding the interpretation of conflict and power imbalance between employers and employees and employee these perspectives to:
 - a. Recognize the assumptions and information underlying specific social or political claims/arguments;
 - b. Criticize or justify the actions of key actors in the industrial relations system and;
 - c. Explain, predict and evaluate industrial relation outcomes
3. Assemble, interpret and persuasively communicate information to justify decision-making in the performance of key tasks associated with the industrial relations function in organizations (i.e., collective bargaining, dispute resolution, etc.).

6. Evaluation:

Exam 1 = 35%

Exam 2 = 35%

Team Project = 20%

Individual Course Participation = 10%

Total = 100%

6.1 Examinations:

Exams are multiple choice, short answer and/or case long questions in format. Each exam, in total, will be scheduled for 2 hours, are non-cumulative, and are closed book examinations. Electronic devices of any kind including (dictionaries, pagers, smart phones, smart watches and calculators) are NOT allowed into examinations.

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text. Midterm exams will be in class time. The final exam will be scheduled during the exam period. Exams will not be returned to students but may be reviewed in the instructor's office within a week of writing.

6.2 Individual Course Participation:

Participation is an important component of this course and includes regular attendance in class as well as participation in any exercises, games, case studies, simulations and discussions that occur. Note that you are expected to remain in class (once arrived) except for class breaks determined by the instructor. "Drifting" in and out of the classroom while class is in session is distracting to the instructor and others and will negatively impact your participation mark. You are expected to stay current with your readings so that you arrive in class prepared to ask questions, provide ideas and generally contribute to the learning community on an ongoing basis. See the Instructor standards for class participation for greater detail on how participation will be marked. This will be posted on OWL. **You will be asked to sign into class for in class participation exercises.**

If you are exceedingly shy, speak to me early in the course so that we can discuss other ways for you to contribute. You are expected to manage this aspect of your own learning style in order to meet course requirements. **There are no makeups for missed in class participation.**

6.3 Term Project Seminar:

The class will be divided into teams of five to six and will be required to prepare a comprehensive team seminar on an Industrial Relations related topic as described in the Guidelines for Industrial Relations seminar available on OWL. The guidelines describe requirements, format and content expectations for this assignment. You are expected to access and read the guidelines prior to commencing the assignment.

6.4 Term Project Team Grievance Exercise and Analysis Simulation Report:

The class will be divided into teams of five to six and will be required to prepare a comprehensive team report after participating in a grievance simulation. Instructions will be provided in the assignment link available on OWL. You are expected to access and read the instructions prior to commencing the assignment.

6.5 Information Regarding All Assignments:

Students are required to submit all assignments by the due date indicated. Assignments are to be submitted in the manner requested and in the required format. Late assignments will not be accepted unless PRIOR communication has been made with the professor to discuss a verifiable reason (ie. hospitalization, family funerals, etc.). To be accommodated, students MUST communicate PRIOR to the absence with the Professor (twenty-four hours-notice is expected). Students will be asked to provide documentation to verify these reasons.

Students are **REQUIRED TO COMPLETE ALL COMPONENTS** of this course. There are no exceptions to this. Extra assignments to improve grades **will NOT** be allowed.

Exams will be scored using the program Scan Exam which examines the answer sheets for unusual coincidences in the pattern of answers given which may be indicative and used as supporting evidence of cheating.

Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: You are responsible for your grades in this course.

The DAN Department has a grade policy which states that for courses in the 3000 range, the class average must fall between 70% and 75% for all sections of a course taught by the same instructor. In very exceptional circumstances only, class averages outside this range may be approved by the Undergraduate Chair or Chair. Class averages are not grounds for appeal.

7. Lecture and Examination Schedule:

See Schedule on "OWL".

8. Student Responsibilities:

For Students should familiarize themselves with Western University Senate Regulations, please see: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html.

Material covered in lectures will not always be the same as material covered in the textbook. These two sources should be viewed as complimentary and not redundant. As such, students who want to do well in this course are **strongly encouraged** to attend lectures on a regular basis. Please note that the instructor

will not be providing copies of lectures notes or overheads. Therefore, if you miss a lecture, you should try to obtain this material from another student.

8.1 Respect:

Please act respectfully towards the classroom, the Professor and your fellow students. Acting respectfully means arriving on time, turning off phones, avoiding private discussions during lectures, refraining from viewing non-course material on your laptops, and cleaning up after yourself. Acting respectfully provides a better learning experience for everyone.

Private in-class discussions are distracting to students and the Professor. If other students are distracting your attention from the material, you should ask them to be quiet. If you feel uncomfortable doing this (or the problem persists), please see the instructor.

Late arrivals are also distracting. Please try to arrive on time for classes.

8.2 No Recording of Classes:

Students are not permitted to record any portion of a class, audio or video, without the prior written permission of the professor.

8.3 Copyright Notice:

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may **not** record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.

9. Exam Policies:

- Bring student identification to exams.
- Nothing is to be on/at one's desk during an exam except a pencil, an eraser, and the individual's student card.
- Do not wear baseball caps to exams.
- Do not bring music players, cell phones, or other electronic devices to exams.
- To ensure fairness to all students, questions will not be answered during exams.

10. E-mail Policies:

The following policies apply to all emails between students and the Professor. Please respect the fact that the Professor receives hundreds of emails from students and must deal with those emails in a fair and organized manner. Unacceptable emails will receive a reply saying only "Please see Email Policies on the course outline".

10.1 UWO.CA Email Addresses Only:

For privacy reasons, students must use their Western email accounts to contact the Professor. The Professor will not respond to emails from non-uwo.ca addresses (e.g. hotmail.com, gmail.com, etc.).

10.2 Subject Line Must Include Course and Section Number:

The subject line of emails must contain the name or number of the course, and the section number in which the student is enrolled. The Professor teaches different courses and sections and cannot properly respond to questions if he does not know which course or section you are enrolled in.

10.3 Acceptable Emails:

- questions about the course content or materials
- asking to set up an appointment to ask questions or review an exam
- notification of illness or other special circumstances
- providing constructive comments or feedback about the course

10.4 Unacceptable Emails:

- questions that may be answered on OWL or on this course outline
- asking when grades will be posted
- asking what grade a student received
- asking where or when an exam is scheduled or the material covered on an exam
- requests for grade increases, extra assignments, or reweighting of course components

11. Attendance:

It is expected that students will attend all classes. The professor does not provide access to lecture notes. Students are encouraged to obtain missed lecture notes from a fellow student.

11.1 Short Absences:

If you miss a class due to minor illness or other problems, check your course outlines for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or exam. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow the missed lectures notes from a classmate.

11.2 Extended Absences:

If you are absent more than approximately two weeks or if you get too far behind to catch up, you should consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses. The Academic Counsellors can help you to consider the alternatives. At your request, they can also keep your instructors informed about your difficulties.

12. Grade Fairness:

Fairness requires that all students be treated equally and be evaluated using the criteria set out in this course outline. The evaluation criteria are based on actual achievement and not on how hard a student has tried.

Claims by students of an excellent academic history, good attendance record, need to obtain or maintain a scholarship, desire to be admitted to Ivey or graduate school, or other personal issues, cannot be used to justify a higher grade in the course or a reweighting of course components. There is no extra work or assignments available for extra credit or to “make up” for a course component that was missed or performed poorly.

13. Posting of Grades:

Midterm exam grades will be posted on OWL once the grades are available. Final exam grades and final course grades are not posted on OWL and are available once they have been posted by the Registrar under “Academic Summary” at the Student Centre website.

14. University Policy Regarding Illness:

14.1 Illness:

For details on University Policy and student responsibilities go to:

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

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

- i. Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form provided that the conditions for submission are met (maximum of 2 from September to April, valid for 48 hours or less, on course work worth less than 30%); or
- ii. For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) : https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
- iii. For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in order to be eligible for academic consideration. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- are advised to **consider carefully the implications** of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
- are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (upset stomach) or upsets (argument with a friend) are not an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- **must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

14.2 Make Up Examinations:

The student must write a make-up exam if the regularly scheduled exam is missed for reasons for which adequate documentation is received by the instructor (this documentation must be supplied by the [Academic Counseling office](#)).

The date and time of the make-up examination will be set by the instructor, who will communicate the date to the student.

If a student is unable to meet the scheduled make-up as agreed, then the student is responsible for obtaining new accommodations from Academic Counselling and seeking a new make-up date with the instructor within a reasonable time frame.

15. University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct:

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offenses. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offenses in the [Academic Calendar](#). Note that such offenses include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate, consult your instructor. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" will not be accepted as an excuse.

A copy of guidelines about how to avoid cheating can be obtained from the office of the [Ombudsperson](#), Room 3135 WSSB, (519) 661-3573, ombuds@uwo.ca.

Cheating on exams will not be tolerated; students are referred to the university policy on scholastic offenses. Looking at the test of another student, allowing another student to view your exam, or obtaining information about a test in advance are all examples of cheating.

Students found cheating will receive a zero (0%) on that exam. A number of safeguards will be employed to discourage cheating. For example, examination supervisors (proctors) of the tests may ask students to move to another seat during the exam, cover their paper, avert their eyes from other students' papers, remove baseball caps, etc. This is not meant as a personal affront nor as an accusation of cheating, rather as vigilant attempts at proctoring.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offense include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

16. Procedures for Appealing Academic Evaluations:

1. In the first instance, all appeals of a grade must be made to the course instructor (informal consultation).
2. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal must be sent to the Undergraduate Chair: Student Affairs of the Department of Management and Organizational Studies.
3. If the response of the Undergraduate Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, he/she may then appeal to the Dean of the Faculty in which the course of program was taken.
4. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office.

17. Support Services:

17.1 Support Services:

The Registrar's office can be accessed for Student Support Services at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>
Student Support Services (***including the services provided by the USC listed here***) can be reached at: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western
http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

17.2 Academic Concerns:

If you are in academic difficulty, it is strongly recommended that you see your academic counsellor.