

Fall/Winter 2023/24 Course Syllabus

MOS 3352F Section – 001 **Industrial Relations and Labour Studies** In-Person

Instructor: Jen Harmer
Office: Available on OWL
Office Hours: Available on OWL
Email: Available on OWL

1. Course Information:

1.1 Class Location and Time:

In-Person (location and time available on OWL)

1.2 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.

Prerequisite: Enrollment in 3rd or 4th year of BMOS.

1.3 Accessibility:

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.

Contact Academic Support & Engagement at <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/> for information about Western's Accessible Education.

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

1.4 Land Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum.

With this, we respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers. We acknowledge historical and ongoing injustices that Indigenous Peoples (e.g. First Nations, Métis and Inuit) endure in Canada, and we accept responsibility as a public institution to contribute toward revealing and correcting miseducation as well as renewing respectful relationships with Indigenous communities through our teaching, research and

community service.

<https://indigenous.uwo.ca/initiatives/docs/indigenous-land-acknowledgment.pdf>

1.5 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 PREREQUISITE COURSES required.

Students not in BMOS are permitted to enroll in up to 1.0 MOS courses, per the Academic Timetable. The requirement that states you must be in BMOS is lifted during registration on the priority lift dates as noted in the [Timetable](#).

2. Course Materials

Primary text: Hebdon, R., Brown, T. C., & Walsworth, S. (2021). *Industrial relations in Canada*. (4th ed.). Nelson.

https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2023A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/MOS3352F

Additional reading: Available through the Western Libraries Course Reserve.

3. Course Objectives and Format

The DAN Department of Management and Organizational Studies as a whole draws 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.

3.1 Course objectives

The objective of the course is to create an educational and engaging learning environment that explores the world of work. The purpose is to inspire students to use a variety of lenses when considering the employee-employer relationship. To critically analyze contemporary workplace issues and the historical context. Provide students with an opportunity to develop practical skills in the field of labour-management relations.

3.2 Course format

In-Person learning will be comprised of lectures, practitioner presentations, discussions, in-class engagement activities, and take-home written assignments.

4. Learning Outcomes

1. Understand different perspectives in the employee-employer relationship
2. Understand historical and contemporary issues in the workplace
3. Practical skills in the field of labour-management relations.

5. Evaluation

Written Assignment #1 (Due: October 10th at 11:59pm) = 25%

Essay Outline (Due: October 24th at 11:59pm) = 10%

Essay (Due: December 5th at 11:59pm) = 40%

Engagement Activity (Due: weekly, during class) = 25%

Total = 100%

Please see the assignment descriptions for more detailed information on how to meet the requirements of the assigned work.

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text.

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.

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 3000-4000 range, the class average must fall between 70% and 77% 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.

6. Lecture Schedule

September 12, 2023

Week 1 Course overview
 Introduction to Industrial Relations and Labour Studies

September 19, 2023

Week 2 Worker voice

September 29, 2023

Week 3 Contemporary issues in labour and management
 Guide to successful writing

October 3, 2023

Week 4 The law of work

October 10, 2023

Week 5 Establishing a union & negotiating a first contract
 Collective bargaining & agreements

Due (11:59pm) Writing Assignment #1

October 17, 2023

Week 6 Workplace conflict: Strikes and more!

October 24, 2023

Week 7 Labour unions today
 Guest lecture: Emily Niles, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)

Due (11:59pm) Essay outline

October 31, 2023

Reading week No class

November 7, 2023

Week 8 Employer perspectives
 Guest lecture: Kleva Gruda, Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB)

November 14, 2023

Week 9 Public policy & the public workforce
Guest lecture: Jonathan Eaton, Ontario Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD)

November 21, 2023

Week 10 Global labour issues

November 28, 2023

Week 11 Union density decline & renewal

December 5, 2023

Week 12 Course recap & key take-aways

Due (11:59pm) Essay

7. Student Responsibilities

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.

7.1 Respect

Please act respectfully towards the classroom, the instructor 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 instructor. 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 your instructor.

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

7.2 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 instructor.

7.3 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 the written consent of your instructor.

8. E-mail Policies

The following policies apply to all emails between students and the instructor. Unacceptable emails will receive a reply saying only "Please see Email Policies on the course outline".

8.1 UWO.CA Email Addresses Only

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

8.2 Acceptable Emails

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

8.3 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
- requests for grade increases, extra assignments, or reweighting of course components

9. Attendance

IN-PERSON: It is expected that students will attend all classes. The instructor will typically post the lecture slides the following day after class. Students are encouraged to obtain missed lecture notes from a fellow student.

9.1 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.

9.2 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.

10. 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.

You, the student, are responsible for the grades earned.

11. 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.

12. University Policy Regarding Illness, Absence and Accommodation

12.1 Illness

Students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty Academic Counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

For privacy reasons, students should also note that individual instructors should not receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.

For details on the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness, go to:

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

Students can download the Student Medical Certificate (SMC) here:

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

12.2 Accessible Education

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

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

Students needing access to Accessible Education should register here:

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

12.3 Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

13. University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

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.

Within this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploring a topic, with students expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources of information and avoiding plagiarism. Essays and/or written assignments should reflect the student's own thoughts and independent written work. Students should also generate their own figures (e.g., graphs, diagrams) rather than using AI generated ones. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and effective learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and all them to produce original written contributions. The same principles also apply to the use of translation software to support the writing the essays and other written assessments.

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.

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.

14. Procedures For Appealing Academic Evaluations

1. In the first instance, all appeals of a grade must be made to the course instructor (informal consultation).
 - a. If a student feels a mistake was made by the marker of an assignment: They are asked to wait 48 hours after the assignments have been returned. Students should use this time to review the assignment instructions, the feedback on the assignment, as well as any feedback provided by the instructor to the class. At this point they are requested to send an email to the instructor detailing any issues/mistakes made by the marker.
2. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal must be sent to the Undergraduate Chair of the Department of Management and Organizational Studies.
3. If the response of the Undergraduate Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they 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 Office of the Ombudsperson.

15. Support Services

15.1 Support Services

The Registrar's office provides you with information on services, courses, student finances, resources, latest news, as well as Student Central's hours of operation 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/>

Academic Support & Engagement can be reached at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

15.2 Academic Concerns.

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