

**ECON490: Gender and Economics**  
**University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill**  
**Department of Economics**  
**Fall 2015**

Instructor: Kalina Staub  
Email: [Kalina.staub@unc.edu](mailto:Kalina.staub@unc.edu)  
Office Phone: (919) 966-5331  
Office: Gardner 207  
Office Hours: MW: 3:30pm-4:30pm  
5-minute introductory appointments (week prior to and first week of classes) and 15-minute appointments (all semester) bookable at alternative times at: <http://calendly.com/staub>  
Class: MWF 2:30-3:20 pm  
Text: "The Economics of Women, Men, and Work" 7<sup>th</sup> Edition by Francine Blau, Marianne Ferber, and Anne Winkler  
Prerequisites: ECON101 and ECON410 (or equivalent courses)

### **Course Description**

Why are more and more women entering the labor force? Do women really earn less than men? Why are men less likely to go to college? Why is single motherhood on the rise? What role does policy play in diminishing or reinforcing gender differences? How does the status of women differ abroad and how does this correspond with a country's development? These are just some of the questions we will address during the course of the semester. This course is designed to investigate the evolution of the economic status of women and the role of gender both domestically and abroad. Using basic economic theory and recent empirical studies, we will explore a wide variety of topics including family formation and dissolution, fertility decisions, the labor force participation choice, the gender gap in earnings, occupational choice, and education decisions in an effort to understand the role gender plays in our life decisions and outcomes.

### **Course Objectives**

During the semester, you will be expected to:

- Understand key concepts and patterns related to gender roles and gender differences historically and comparatively
- Apply economic tools to analyze gender issues both domestically and abroad
- Use an economic framework to evaluate the effect of specific policies on choices and outcomes by gender
- Develop an argument and support it with appropriate evidence
- Analyze, present, and interpret microeconomic data
- Develop skills for reading and analyzing economics journal articles.
- Develop research, writing, and presentation skills
- Participate actively and substantively in class discussions

### **Course Components**

Your performance in this course will be evaluated based on the following assignments. All assignments are to be completed on your own unless specifically stated.

- *Participation and Assignments (15%)*  
I will not take attendance, but I do not accept late assignments and you are responsible for all material covered in class. I expect you to be on time to class, have completed the assigned readings, and actively engage and participate in the classroom activities. This portion of your grade will be based on making substantive, relevant, and respectful contributions to lectures and discussions as well as a completing a variety of small in-class and out-of class activities assigned in class or on Sakai throughout the semester. You are expected to check your university email and Sakai regularly to guarantee you do not miss announcements or assignments. Inappropriate chatting or electronics use will negatively impact your participation grade in this course.
- *Reading Quizzes (10%)*  
We will have about one a week unannounced reading quizzes over the course of the semester. These quizzes will be short (5-10 minutes) and are simply designed to make sure you are keeping

up with the readings. If you are absent for any reason and there is a reading quiz, you will receive a zero; however, you will be able to drop your 2 lowest scores.

- ***Gender Across the Globe: Papers and Presentation (50%)***  
Over the course of the semester, you will become an expert on gender issues in a particular country. You will pick a country on the second day of class and write 3 short papers (4-7 pages) examining your chosen country on three distinct dimensions:
  1. Family formation, dissolution, structure, and fertility
  2. Education and labor market outcomes
  3. General assessment of gender equality and policy suggestions for improvement
 You will also give a short (3-4 minute) presentation on one of these papers to the class. You should sign up for a presentation day at <http://calendly.com/staub> by September 4th  
Guidelines for each paper assignment and detailed rubrics will be provided on Sakai.
  
- ***Midterm Exam (10%)***  
The midterm exam will take place on October 23 and cover all material covered in the course through October 14. There are no make-up exams (see Late Work Policy below).
  
- ***Final Exam (15%)***  
The final exam will be cumulative and cover all material covered in the course. The date and time of the final exam will be set by the University Registrar. There are no make-up exams (see Late Work Policy below).
  
- ***Extra Credit (up to 3%)***  
You may submit one of the following during the semester and present what you have read or found during the first 3 minutes of class for up to 3 extra credit points. I will only allow one paper summary or contemporary application per lecture, so there will be benefits to completing this assignment early because the later you decide you want to complete the assignment, the lower the chance there will be any opportunities remaining. You should sign up at least three days before you want to present at <http://calendly.com/staub>.
  - ***Paper Summary***  
You will need to pick a scholarly journal article from a peer-reviewed economics journal that pertains to a topic we are covering and write a 1-2 page summary (see handout on Sakai). You can turn these in at any time, however, if you choose a paper we are discussing in class, it must be turned in before we discuss that paper in class.
  - ***Contemporary Application***  
You should find a magazine/news article or clip, movie, documentary, or TV show that deals with women's or gender issues that was published or aired within the last year. Write up a 1-2 page (double-spaced) response to your chosen media in which you explain how it ties in with the economic models we cover in class and use the economic tools covered in class to analyze the gender issues presented.

### Grading

This table shows the minimum grade you can achieve for each raw score. I reserve the right to curve grades up if I see fit. This means that a 69% will never earn you less than a D+, but I might decide that students with a 69% actually deserve a C- or a C.

Grade	Percent Range
A	93 and above
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	59 and below

If you feel that your work has been graded unfairly, you may submit it for a re-grade within one week of your work being handed back. In order for your re-grade request to be considered, you must submit the original work with NO additional markings or changes along with a detailed description of what you believe was graded unfairly and why you think you deserve additional points. Please keep in mind that I reserve the right to re-grade any and all parts of the work which is submitted for re-assessment, and your grade may increase, decrease, or stay the same as a result.

### **Late Work Policy**

Due dates and times of assignments are firm. No late work will be accepted after the due date; however, you are always welcome to turn in your assignments early.

If you are unable to attend class and miss the midterm due to severe illness, religious reasons, death in the family, or University-sponsored events, you are required to provide appropriate, original documentation to the instructor within five days of the test. If the instructor is not on campus, you can also submit it to the Economics Department office. If you are unsure of anything, please contact the instructor before the exam, or before the submission deadline.

In the event of illness, appropriate documentation must include a signed doctor's note. The date on the doctor's note should indicate that you visited the doctor **prior to** or **on the day of** the midterm and must indicate that your condition is severe enough to warrant missing a midterm. Doctor's notes dated **after** the midterm date will not be considered appropriate documentation. If you fail to present the appropriate documentation on time, you will receive a zero for the midterm.

If all of the requirements described above have been met, you will be excused from the midterm and the weight will be shifted proportionally to your other term work. There are no make-up exams.

If you must miss the final exam for any excused reason, it is your responsibility to alert your instructor and Dean as soon as possible to schedule a make-up exam. Please see the University policy regarding final examinations ([http://www.unc.edu/ugradbulletin/procedures1.html#final\\_exams](http://www.unc.edu/ugradbulletin/procedures1.html#final_exams)).

### **Academic Integrity**

As a student of the University of North Carolina you are expected to behave in accordance with the school's honor code. Plagiarism, forgery, unauthorized collaboration and the use of unauthorized materials are only some of the behaviors that I will not tolerate in this course. If you have any uncertainties about any of your work, please approach me before an assignment's due date. I take academic integrity very seriously and will not hesitate to report any instance where I feel academic integrity has been compromised, either intentionally or unintentionally.

The Instrument of Student Judicial Government can be found here:

<https://studentconduct.unc.edu/sites/studentconduct.unc.edu/files/documents/Instrument.pdf>

### **Computers and Cell Phones**

Cell phones should be silenced or turned off and stored out of sight during class. I reserve the right to confiscate any cell phones that I see out during class.

You may use a computer or tablet during class if you feel this is the most effective way to take notes. However, I request that you sit in the last row of the classroom to avoid distracting your peers, and I reserve the right to confiscate your computer until the end of class if your computer use is causing any distraction or disruption to others or myself.

Additionally please keep the following in mind:

- In general, note-taking by hand (on paper or on a tablet) leads to higher retention than typing notes on a computer (see the following article from *The Atlantic*: <http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2014/05/to-remember-a-lecture-better-take-notes-by-hand/361478/>).
- Multitasking on an electronic device during lectures has been shown to decrease grades of the multitaskers, but more importantly the grades of the people seated around them: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/laptop-use-lowers-student-grades-experiment-shows->

[1.1401860](#). If you know that you cannot refrain from multitasking, please sit in the back of the classroom out of respect for your peers.

### Email Policy

Please feel free to contact me by email if you have any questions about course policies or any personal concerns. My email is listed on the first page of this syllabus. I will try to respond to emails promptly, but if you haven't heard from me in 48 hours, please resend the email, as I may have not received your original message. Please use your UNC email, as emails from other clients will most likely be sent to my spam folder. Please indicate in the subject of your email that you are in ECON490. For example the subject of your email might read, "[ECON490] question about office hours."

### Accessibility Resources and Service Office

The University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations, including resources and services, for students with disabilities, chronic medical conditions, a temporary disability or pregnancy complications resulting in difficulties with accessing learning opportunities.

All accommodations are coordinated through the Accessibility Resources and Service Office. In the first instance please visit their website <http://accessibility.unc.edu>, Tel: 919-962-8300 or Email: [accessibility@unc.edu](mailto:accessibility@unc.edu). A student is welcome to initiate the registration process at any time; however, the process can take time. ARS is particularly busy in the run-up to Finals and during Finals. Students submitting Self-ID forms at that time are unlikely to have accommodations set until the following semester.

Please contact ARS as early in the semester as possible.

### The Learning Center

The UNC Learning Center is a great resource both for students who are struggling in their courses and for those who want to be proactive and develop sound study practices to prevent falling behind. They offer individual consultations, peer tutoring, academic coaching, test prep programming, study skills workshops, and peer study groups. If you think you might benefit from their services, please visit them in SASB North or visit their website to set up an appointment: <http://learningcenter.unc.edu/>

### The Writing Center

The Writing Center is located in the Student and Academic Services Building and offers personalized writing consultations as well as a variety of other resources. This could be a wonderful resource to help with your writing assignments in this course (and any assignments in your other courses). You do not need a complete draft of your assignment to visit; they can help you at any stage! You can chat with someone in the writing center or set up as appointment on their website: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/>

### Medical and Counseling Services

If you are having any mental, physical, or other personal problems that are interfering with your ability to focus on your coursework, please contact the UNC Campus Health Services (919-966-2281 or <https://campushealth.unc.edu/>) right away.

### Tentative Course Outline

Below is a tentative weekly schedule with suggested readings from the textbook (BFW). All non-textbook reading will be made available in PDF format through the course Sakai site at least one class period before it is discussed in class. Please note that this schedule is subject to change, and the most up to date readings will be posted on Sakai.

Week	Dates	Topics	Readings	Assignments
1	8/19 8/21	Introduction Econ Review and Tools of the Trade	Syllabus BFW ch.1	Syllabus Quiz
2	8/24 8/26 8/28	Cont. Gender: A Historical Perspective Behavioral Differences by Gender	BFW ch.2 BFW pp.211-219	
3	8/31 9/2 9/4	Cont. Marriage and Bargaining Cont. Visit from UNC Libraries	BFW ch. 3, pp. 71-74 BFW pp.293-300	

4	9/7 9/9	Labor Day – No Class Cont.		Pick country and Sign up for presentation date
	9/11	Cohabitation and Civil Unions	BFW pp. 303-306	
5	9/14 9/16 9/18	Divorce Cont. Fertility	BFW pp. 300-303 BFW pp. 307-315	Paper #1 outline due
6	9/21  9/23 9/25	Cont.  Cont. Cont.	BFW ch. 14, pp. 386, 412-415	
7	9/28 9/30 10/2	Student Presentations Education Major Choice	BFW ch.8, pp. 383- 386, 411-413	Paper #1 due
8	10/5  10/7 10/9	Labor Force Participation  Labor Supply Decision Cont.	BFW ch. 5, pp. 376- 382 BFW ch. 6	
9	10/12  10/14  10/16	Occupational Segregation  Wage Gaps and Wage Penalties  Fall Break – No Class	pp. 135-146, 382- 383, 402-403 pp. 146-150, 205-211, 403-407	
10	10/19 10/21 10/23	Cont. Discrimination Midterm Exam in class	BFW ch. 10	
11	10/26  10/28 10/30	Cont.  Cont. Policies to fight discrimination	BFW ch. 11  BFW ch. 12	Paper #2 outline due
12	11/2 11/4 11/6	Student Presentations Cont. Childcare and Family Leave	BFW ch. 16	Paper #2 due
13	11/9 11/11 11/13	Cont. Taxes and Social Security Cont.	pp. 341-348	
14	11/16 11/18 11/20	Welfare and the EITC Cont. Fertility Control	pp. 330-339	
15	11/23 11/25 11/27	Prostitution and Human Trafficking Thanksgiving – No Class Thanksgiving – No Class		Paper #3 outline due
16	11/30 12/2	Catch up/Student Presentations Student Presentations		Paper #3 due
Exam	12/4	Final Exam from 4pm – 7pm		