

ECON490: Gender and Economics
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
Department of Economics
Spring 2016

Instructor: Kalina Staub
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Office: Gardner 207
Office Hours: W: 2:00pm-4:00pm
5-minute introductory appointments (week prior to and first 2 weeks of classes) and 15-minute office hour appointments (all semester) bookable at alternative times at: <http://calendly.com/staub>
Class: TR 3:30-4:45 pm
Text: "The Economics of Women, Men, and Work" 7th Edition by Francine Blau, Marianne Ferber, and Anne Winkler
Prerequisites: ECON101, ECON410, and ECON400 (or equivalent courses)

Course Description

This course uses basic microeconomic theory and recent empirical studies to examine the causes and consequences of gender differences in economic outcomes. Topics covered may include family formation and dissolution, fertility decisions, human capital investment, the labor force participation choice, the gender gap in earnings, and occupational choice.

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 (10%)*
Attendance is expected in this class; however, I will not take attendance every class. I expect you to be on time, have completed the assigned readings, and actively engage and participate in the classroom activities. I do not accept late assignments and you are responsible for all material covered in class; Powerpoint slides from lectures will NOT be posted, but I do provide lecture outlines that I suggest you use. 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. Because I understand that issues may arise during the semester that prevent you from attending every lecture, your two lowest grades in this category will be dropped.
- *Reading Guides (10%)*
Each Tuesday or Thursday you will be given a set of questions to guide you through the reading for the next class. They will be due on Sakai by the beginning of each class. These assignments are simply designed to make sure you are keeping up with the readings so that we can have

productive class discussions. They will be graded on a check plus (100%), check (85%), check minus (70%) system. You will be able to drop your lowest 3 scores.

- *Estimating the Gender Wage Gap Project (8%)*
In this project, you will use data from recent college graduates to calculate and analyze the gender wage gap. Guidelines and a detailed rubric will be provided on Sakai. This is an individual assignment.
- *Gender Across the Globe: Papers and Presentation (45%)*
Over the course of the semester, you and 1-2 of your classmates will become experts on gender issues in a particular country. You will pick a country on the second day of class and complete the following assignments throughout the course of the semester:
 1. Report on family formation, dissolution, structure, and fertility. (13%)
 2. Report on education and labor market outcomes (13%)
 3. General assessment of gender equality and policy suggestions for improvement (13%)
 4. Presentation on your country (6%)
 Guidelines for each assignment and detailed rubrics will be provided on Sakai.
- *Midterm Exam (12%)*
The midterm exam will take place on March 10 and cover all material covered in the course through March 3. 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).

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 to the instructor directly or to her mailbox in the main Economics Department office.

If you miss a quiz, online assignment, or in class assignment, you will receive a zero with NO exceptions regardless of whether the absence is for an “excused” or “unexcused” reasons. For all assignments and

quizzes (EXCEPT the midterm, writing projects, and final) you have a certain number of drop grades to account for the occasional illness etc. In the case of a severe and ongoing issue, please speak with the instructor as soon as possible so that possible accommodations may be discussed.

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 see 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).

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. 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 an 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. Readings for each class will be posted on Sakai under Course Materials. It is your responsibility to check the readings for each class. 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 | Assignments |
|------|--------------|---|---|
| 1 | 1/12 1/14 | Introduction Econ Review and Tools of the Trade | |
| 2 | 1/19 1/21 | Cont. Gender: A Historical Perspective Behavioral Differences by Gender | Syllabus Quiz and Academic Integrity Quiz due |
| 3 | 1/26 1/28 | Cont. Marriage, Cohabitation, and Bargaining | |
| 4 | 2/2 2/4 | Cont. Divorce | |
| 5 | 2/9 2/11 | Cont. Fertility | |
| 6 | 2/16 2/18 | Cont. Catch-Up Day | Annotated Bib 1 due |
| 7 | 2/23 2/25 | Education Major Choice | Report 1 due |
| 8 | 3/1 | Labor Force Participation | |

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|------|--------------------|---|----------------------|
| 9 | 3/3 3/8 3/10 | Labor Supply Decision Occupational Segregation Midterm Exam | |
| 10 | 3/15 3/17 | Spring Break – No Classes Spring Break – No Classes | |
| 11 | 3/22 3/24 | Wage Gaps and Wage Penalties Discrimination | Annotated Bib 2 due |
| 12 | 3/29 3/31 | Cont. Policies to fight discrimination | Wage Gap Project due |
| 13 | 4/5 4/7 | Cont. Paid Family Leave | Report 2 due |
| 14 | 4/12 4/14 | Income Taxes and Social Security Microfinance | Annotated Bib 3 due |
| 15 | 4/19 4/21 | Human Trafficking/Prostitution Student Presentations | Paper 3 due |
| 16 | 4/26 | Student Presentations | |
| Exam | 4/30 | Exam from 4:00pm – 7:00pm | |