

**ECON486: Gender and Economics**  
**University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill**  
**Department of Economics**  
**Spring 2018**

Instructor: Kalina Staub  
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:30-3:30pm in GA200G and Thursdays 3-4pm in the EconAid Center  
5-minute introductory appointments (first 2 weeks of classes) and 15-minute office hour appointments (all semester) bookable at alternative times at: <http://calendly.com/staub>  
Class: MWF 11:15am-12:05pm (Section 001)  
MWF 1:25-2:15pm (Section 002)  
Text: "The Economics of Women, Men, and Work" 8<sup>th</sup> Edition by Francine Blau, Marianne Ferber, and Anne Winkler  
Prerequisites: ECON101, ECON410, and ECON400 with a grade of C or better

**Course Description**

This course uses 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. You will have 2 options for grading in the course: Option A places more weight on the group project and less on the exams, while Option B places more weight on the exams and less weight on the group project. You will choose one option by the second week of class, but may change your choice at any point during the semester.

- *Participation and Assignments (Option A: 5% OR Option B: 5%)*  
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 term that prevent you from attending every lecture, your two lowest grades in this category will be dropped.

- *Reading Guides (Option A: 10% OR Option B: 10%)*  
You will be given sets of questions to guide you through the readings for the each lecture. They will be due on Sakai by the beginning of the class where that reading will be discussed. Be sure to check Sakai frequently to stay on top of the course readings and reading guides. 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 (Option A: 8% OR Option B: 8%)*  
In this project, you will use data from recent college graduates to calculate and analyze the gender wage gap. The purpose of this assignment is to help you apply the concepts we are learning in class to real-world data from UNC and to give you practice in Excel, which will be valuable in the workplace. Guidelines and a detailed rubric will be provided on Sakai. This is an individual assignment.
- *Gender Across the Globe (Option A: 42% OR Option B: 33%)*  
Over the course of the semester, you and 2-3 of your classmates will become experts on gender issues in a particular country. For the reports, you are allowed to meet with your group to discuss, but any writing and graphs you turn in need to be completed individually. The memo and presentation will be completed, submitted, and presented as a group. You will pick a country in the first week of class and complete the following assignments throughout the course of the term:
  1. Reports on Marriage and/or Divorce, Fertility, Educational Attainment, and Labor Force Participation (*Option A: 24% OR Option B: 20%*)
  2. Memo assessing gender equality in your country and making a policy suggestion for improvement (*Option A: 12% OR Option B: 9%*)
  3. Presentation (*Option A: 6% OR Option B: 4%*)
 Guidelines for each assignment and detailed rubrics will be provided on Sakai.
- *Midterm Exam (Option A: 12% OR Option B: 16%)*  
The midterm exam will take place on March 9th and cover all material covered in the course through March 7th. There are no make-up exams (see Late Work Policy below).
- *Final Exam (Option A: 23% OR Option B: 28%)*  
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.

### 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-	90-92.99
B+	87-89.99
B	83-86.99
B-	80-82.99
C+	77-79.99
C	73-76.99
C-	70-72.99
D+	67-69.99
D	60-66.99
F	59.99 and below

### Regrade Policy

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/Missed Work Policy**

Due dates and times of assignments are firm.

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 (i.e. you must miss more than a week of classes), please speak with the instructor as soon as possible so that possible accommodations may be discussed.

For projects and writing assignments, due dates and times are firm. Late work will be accepted, but is subject to the following penalties: -5% if turned in before midnight on the due date, -10% for each subsequent day that the assignment is late (e.g if an assignment is due in class on Monday and you submit it at 5pm on the same Monday, 5% will be deducted from your final score making a 95% your maximum possible score. If you submit the same assignment on Wednesday at 11am, 25% will be deducted from your score making the maximum possible score a 75%). You are always welcome to turn in your assignments early to the instructor directly or to her mailbox in the main Economics Department office (GA107).

If you are unable to attend the midterm exam due to severe illness, religious reasons, death in the family, or University-sponsored events, you are required to contact the professor **BEFORE** the exam begins (via email is fine) AND provide appropriate, original documentation to the instructor within two business days of the test. If the instructor is not on campus, you can also submit it to the Economics Department office (Gardner 107). 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. 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)). If you have an official university excuse, you may take the exam with the other section.

## **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. If you haven't heard from me in 48 hours, please ask yourself if your question has already been answered in the syllabus or on Sakai. If not, 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 ECON486. For example the subject of your email might read, "[ECON486] 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 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 Due
1	1/10 1/12	Introduction Econ Review and Tools of the Trade	
2	1/15 1/17  1/19	MLK, Jr. Day – No Classes Cont. (Last Day to Add/Drop a course) Gender: A Historical Perspective	Syllabus Quiz and Academic Integrity Quiz due
3	1/22 1/24 1/26	Behavioral Differences by Gender Cont. Marriage, Cohabitation, and Bargaining	
4	1/19 1/31 2/2	Cont. Cont. Cont.	
5	2/5 2/3 2/9	Divorce Cont. Fertility	
6	2/12 2/14 2/16	Cont. Cont. Cont.	Report 1 due
7	2/19 2/21 2/23	Education Major Choice Cont.	Report 2 due
8	2/26 2/28 3/2	Labor Force Participation Labor Supply Decisions Cont.	
9	3/5 3/7 3/9	Cont. Catch-Up Day Midterm Exam	Report 3 due Midterm Exam
10	3/12 3/14 3/16	Spring Break No Classes ☺	
11	3/19 3/22 3/24	Occupational Segregation Discrimination, Wage Gaps, and Wage Penalties Cont.	Report 4 due
12	3/26 3/28 3/30	Cont. Policies to fight discrimination Holiday – No Classes	
13	4/2 4/4 4/6	Anti-Discrimination policy cont. Policy Discussions (Income Taxes and Social Security, Paid Family Leave, Childcare, Fertility Control, Dowries/Bride prices, Human Trafficking/Prostitution, Microfinance, etc.)	Wage Gap Project due
14	4/9 4/11 4/13	Policy Discussions Cont. Cont.	
15	4/16 4/18 4/20	Policy Discussions Cont. Cont.	
16	4/23 4/25 4/27	Student Presentations Student Presentations Student Presentations	Memo due

Exam	5/3	Exam from 12:00pm-3:00pm (Section 002-MWF 1:25pm)	<b>Final Exam</b>
	5/8	Exam from 12:00pm-3:00pm (Section 001-MWF 11:15am)	