

# Econ486.001 Syllabus

## Course Overview

This course uses microeconomic theory and recent empirical studies to examine the causes and consequences of gender differences in economic outcomes. We will begin by examining the history of gender roles and documented differences in behavior between men and women. We will continue by looking at the economic theory behind human capital formation and labor supply decisions in an effort to try to explain gender differences in educational and labor market outcomes. Next, we will examine gender in the household and discuss how that is linked to gender differences in economic outcomes. Finally, we will discuss discrimination and the role policies can play in ameliorating or exacerbating gender differences.

Prerequisites for this course are: ECON101, ECON410, and ECON400 with a grade of C or better.

## Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to

- Explain how gender roles have evolved over time and differ across countries
- Use microeconomic models to explain trends in household formation/dissolution, labor supply, and human capital investment decisions over time
- Calculate the gender wage gap and discuss the factors that contribute to the gender wage gap
- Use an economic framework and empirical evidence to evaluate the effects of specific policies on choices and outcomes by gender
- Develop an argument and support it with appropriate evidence
- Analyze, present, and interpret microeconomic data using Microsoft Excel
- Read and analyze economics journal articles
- Effectively present your ideas to a group

## Your Instructor

**Instructor:** [Kalina Staub](#)

**Department:** Department of Economics



Office Hours: I am always available during class time on Zoom or, 15-minute office hour appointments are bookable at alternative times at: <http://calendly.com/staub>

## Required Materials

### Textbooks

The following texts are required:

- Francine Blau and Anne Winkler. 2017. *The Economics of Women, Men, and Work, 8th Edition*. Oxford.

You are responsible for purchasing the correct edition and materials for this course. I will make a pdf of the text available for you to use on Sakai until you are able to obtain your own copy. Other readings specific to each lesson are listed on the Lesson pages. Any readings not found in the required textbooks are available through links to free online versions.

### Materials and Technology

- Calculator
- **Zoom.** You will need Zoom to join our lectures and to access my office hours. Zoom is freely available to you and you can sign up here ([unc.zoom.us](http://unc.zoom.us)). You can access the live Zoom sessions with your phone, computer, or tablet. If you have any issues with Zoom (or Sakai), you should contact [ITS](#).
- **Gradescope.** You will submit most of your graded work to [Gradescope](#). I will register you for Gradescope on Thursday, May 14th, by using your official UNC email address listed on Connect Carolina. It is your responsibility to make sure your submitted assignments are clear and easy to read. This means that you should use pen or dark pencil and make sure that your ink does not bleed through to the back of the page if you are writing on both sides. When taking photographs or scanning a document, make sure the pages are properly oriented and ordered numerically, and clearly indicate where each problem appears. See [here](#) for more information on how to [submit homework to Gradescope](#) and other frequently asked questions.
- **Campuswire.** I have set up a Campuswire site for our class, and you will receive an email invitation by the first day of classes. Campuswire is a free Q&A platform. Please

post all course-related questions on Campuswire, except questions about personal concerns or individual grades. These you will send to [kalina.staub@unc.edu](mailto:kalina.staub@unc.edu).

## Library Services and Course Reserves

Students enrolled in Carolina Courses Online have access to the UNC Library System. Visit [Distance Education Library Services](#) to access a wide array of online services and resources including Course Reserves, online databases, online journals, online books, and live help with research and library access. **Most online resources require you to log in with your Onyen and password.** If you have any trouble finding the resource that you need or logging in to a resource, you can contact the library through the contact information at Distance Education Library Services. You can chat live about your problem or send an email to request assistance.

Additionally, The [UNC Libraries](#) offer support for research. Nancy Lovas, the economics librarian, is your point of contact. You can email or meet with her to talk about developing a research question, identifying databases, how to search for information, literature reviews, finding datasets, and more. Make an appointment with Nancy at <https://calendar.lib.unc.edu/appointments/business> or contact her via email at [nancy64@email.unc.edu](mailto:nancy64@email.unc.edu)

## Recommended Twitter Feeds

[@MarinaAdshade](#)  
[@BetseyStevenson](#)  
[@ShellyJLundberg](#)  
[@kearney\\_melissa](#)  
[@JustinWolfers](#)

## Course Expectations and Format

This course is 100% online with both synchronous and asynchronous work. While we will not meet on Zoom everyday, there are readings and videos for you to watch each day with accompanying reading guides. Problem sets are due every Wednesday and Friday, and we meet on Wednesdays and Fridays for you all to synthesize course material and work on the problems together. Please take the time to read this syllabus carefully and use the Campuswire link to ask general questions or email me directly.

### Condensed Schedule Format

- Summer courses are much more condensed than normal courses. That means that taking a 2-day break is the equivalent of missing **over one week** during the regular semester. If you cannot devote time to this course every day, please reconsider taking this course. We will be counting on each other to learn and synthesize this material. In addition, it is impossible to pass this course if you do not attend class (see the section on Grading). You should get help as soon as you need it! Do not let your questions build up. During

summer session, I expect you to spend about 20 hours a week (or about 4 hours a day) on coursework for this class.

## **Campuswire**

For questions that arise outside of our meeting times, I have set up a class site on Campuswire. Feel free to post any course-related questions there. You can bump your course grade up by half a letter grade (e.g. a B to a B+) by contributing regularly to the discussion board. Regular contribution is defined as asking at least one thoughtful question that arose while reading/watching the course material per week AND making at least 2 posts per week that fall into one of the following categories:

1. A thoughtful response of at least 100 words to a question posed by myself or one of your classmates
2. An interesting observation or application of course material to your life or to a current event. This should also be at least 100 words.

## **Course Components**

Your performance in this course will be evaluated based on the following assignments. Please read the "Grading" section on this syllabus for information on how each assignment will impact your course grade. All assignments are to be completed on your own unless specifically stated.

## **Reading Guides**

I have provided sets of questions to guide you through the readings each day. They are due on Sakai each day. Be sure to check Sakai frequently to stay on top of the course readings and reading guides. These assignments are designed to make sure you are keeping up with the readings and focusing on the important aspects of the reading. Reading guides are to be completed individually. To receive a passing grade on a reading guide, you must completely answer all questions.

## **Problem Sets**

Each Wednesday and Friday you will have problem sets due at 11:55 pm. These problem sets are designed to be completed in small groups and during class time on Wednesdays and Fridays we will meet for you to discuss and ask questions about these problems in small groups. Problem Sets will be submitted on Gradescope.

## **Estimating the Gender Wage Gap Project**

In this project, you will either use data from recent college graduates to calculate the gender wage gap and the simulated gender wage gap and compare your results to those found in the economics literature (for a B grade), or find data and run a wage regression to examine factors that contribute to the gender wage gap (for an A grade). The purpose of this assignment is to help you apply the concepts we are learning in class to real-world data and to give you practice in

Excel (or Stata/R for A level work), which will be valuable in the workplace. Guidelines and a detailed rubric will be provided on Sakai after the first midterm. This is an individual assignment.

## **Gender Across the Globe**

Over the course of the semester, you and 2-3 classmates will become experts on gender issues in a particular country and produce two reports and a presentation on topics in that 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 presentation will be completed 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. Two reports on Marriage or Divorce, Fertility, Educational Attainment, and Labor Force Participation.
2. Presentation- You will record a group presentation on Zoom (or another remote video software that you are familiar with) that will be posted on Sakai. Each person in the class will be responsible for reviewing 3 presentations.

Guidelines for each assignment and detailed rubrics will be provided on Sakai.

## **Midterm Exam (90 points)**

The midterm exam will take place on Sakai on 6/3, it will be open book and open note and cover all material covered in the course through 5/29. There are no make-up midterms (see Late Work Policy below).

## **Final Exam (180 points)**

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. The final exam will be open book and open note and take place on Sakai.

## **Grading**

Except for the midterm and final exams, assignments in this course will not be graded in the typical “point” fashion. Instead, each assignment will be graded pass/fail. I will specify my expectations for a “passing grade” in each assignment on rubrics posted on Sakai. The number of assignments that you pass and your performance on the exams will determine your course grade. Note that “completion” implies that you have achieved a “pass” on the assignment.

**To earn a D, students must be able to remember, understand, and apply a minimum number of concepts. This will be demonstrated by:**

- Completing 14 of 17 reading guides by the deadlines.
- Attending 8 of 11 classes and actively participating during those classes.

**To earn a D, students must be able to remember, understand, and apply a minimum number of concepts. This will be demonstrated by:**

- Completing 6 of 8 Problem Sets by the assigned deadline.
- Completing 2 of 4 Gender Across the Globe Reports: one on education OR labor force participation AND one on marriage/divorce OR fertility
- Recording a presentation assessing the level of gender equality in your chosen country and evaluating 2 other presentations
- Earning at least 135 points across the midterm and final exams

**To earn a C, students must be able to remember, understand, and apply more of the concepts. This will be demonstrated by:**

- Completing 14 of 17 reading guides by the deadlines.
- Attending 8 of 11 classes and actively participating during those classes.
- Completing 6 of 8 Problem Sets by the assigned deadline.
- Completing 2 of 4 Gender Across the Globe Reports: one on education OR labor force participation AND one on marriage/divorce OR fertility
- Recording a presentation assessing the level of gender equality in your chosen country and evaluating 3 other presentations
- Earning at least 175 points across the midterm and final exams

**To earn a B, students must be able to remember, understand, apply, analyze, and evaluate the concepts. This will be demonstrated by:**

- Completing 15 of 17 reading guides by the deadlines.
- Attending 9 of 11 classes and actively participating during those classes
- Completing 7 of 8 Problem Sets by the assigned deadline.
- Completing 2 of 4 Gender Across the Globe Reports: one on education OR labor force participation AND one on marriage/divorce OR fertility
- Recording a presentation assessing the level of gender equality AND making a policy suggestion to improve gender equality in your chosen country and evaluating 4 other presentations
- Completing the Gender Wage Gap Excel project
- Earning at least 202 points across the midterm and final exams

**To earn an A, students must be able to remember, understand, apply, analyze, and evaluate more of the concepts. This will be demonstrated by:**

- Completing 15 of 17 reading guides by the deadlines.
- Attending 9 of 11 classes and actively participate during those classes
- Completing 7 of 8 Problem Sets by the assigned deadline.
- Completing 2 of 4 Gender Across the Globe Reports: one of reports 1 and 2 AND one of reports 3 and 4
- Recording a presentation assessing the level of gender equality AND making a policy suggestion to improve gender equality in your chosen country and evaluating 5 other presentations
- Completing the Gender Wage Gap Regression project

**To earn a D, students must be able to remember, understand, and apply a minimum number of concepts. This will be demonstrated by:**

- Earning at least 230 points across the midterm and final exams

**Students must meet all requirements for each category to earn their grade.**

## **Tokens**

You will each have two tokens each of which can be used to resubmit an assignment that was submitted but not passed within 24 hours of that assignment being returned. Tokens cannot be used on the presentation or on the exams. Any unused tokens may be converted to 10 points on the final exam.

## **Course Policies**

### **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**

All due dates of assignments are firm. I have built leeway into the course by not requiring you to complete all assignments or attend all in-class sessions. In addition, you will each have two tokens each of which can be used to resubmit an assignment that was submitted but not passed. Any unused tokens may be converted to 10 points on the final exam.

If you are unable to complete 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 documentation of the absence to me or to the Office of the Dean of Students within two business days of the exam. If you are unsure of anything, please contact the instructor before the exam.

If all of the requirements described above have been met, you will be excused from the midterm and the weight will be shifted to the final exam. 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)).

## **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>

## **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.

# Course Schedule

Below is a *tentative* weekly schedule. Readings for each class will be posted on the Sakai lesson for that week. It is your responsibility to check the readings for each day. All readings will be made available in PDF format through the course Sakai site at least 48 hours before the reading guide on that material is due. Please note that this schedule is subject to change, and the most up to date readings will be posted on Sakai.

- Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are **due by 11:55 PM EST**.
- Reading Guides are due each day on Sakai.
- Problem Sets (PS) are due each Wednesday and Friday at 11:55pm on Gradescope.
- The Midterm Exam will be available from 9am-noon EST on 6/3.
- The final exam will be made available from 7:30am through noon on 6/17. The exam will consist of 2 sections: a 60 minute multiple choice section and a 135 minute short answer section. Once you start a section, you must complete it within the allotted time, but both sections must be completed by noon.
- All Zoom Meetings begin at **9:45 am and run until 11:15 am**.

## Join Zoom Meeting

<https://unc.zoom.us/j/97977101181>

**Meeting ID: 979 7710 1181**

**One tap mobile**

**+13017158592,,97977101181# US (Germantown)**

**+13126266799,,97977101181# US (Chicago)**

**Dial by your location**

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

877 853 5257 US Toll-free

855 880 1246 US Toll-free

**Meeting ID: 979 7710 1181**

<b>Week 1</b>			
<b>13-May</b>	Introduction: Meet on Zoom	Micro/Metrics Review	
<b>14-May</b>		History of Gender Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syllabus Quiz and Academic Integrity Quiz due on Sakai</li> <li>• Reading Guide 1</li> </ul>
<b>15-May</b>	Zoom: Library Info Session and Problem Set Workday	Behavioral Differences by Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Guide 2</li> <li>• Problem Set 1</li> </ul>
<b>Week 2</b>			
<b>18-May</b>		Education	Reading Guide 3
<b>19-May</b>		Major Choice	Reading Guide 4
<b>20-May</b>	Zoom: Problem Set Workday		Problem Set 2 due (Gradescope)
<b>21-May</b>	Zoom: Group Workday (optional)	Labor Supply Decisions	Reading Guide 5
<b>22-May</b>	Zoom: Problem Set Workday	Occupational Segregation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Guide 6</li> <li>• Problem Set 3 due (Gradescope)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 3</b>			
<b>25-May</b>	<i>Memorial Day-No Class</i>		
<b>26-May</b>	Zoom: Group Workday (optional)	Marriage/Cohabitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Guide 7</li> <li>• Report 1 due</li> </ul>
<b>27-May</b>	Zoom: Problem Set Workday	Bargaining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Guide 8</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem Set 4 due (Gradescope)</li> </ul>
<b>28-May</b>	Zoom: Group Workday (optional)	Divorce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Guide 9</li> <li>• Report 2 due</li> </ul>
<b>29-May</b>	Zoom: Problem Set Workday	Fertility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Guide 10</li> <li>• Problem Set 5 due (Gradescope)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 4</b>			
<b>1-Jun</b>	Zoom: Group Workday (optional)		Report 3 due
<b>2-Jun</b>	Zoom: Midterm Q and A		
<b>3-Jun</b>	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	Male Marriage Premium/Motherhood Wage Penalty	Reading Guide 11
<b>4-Jun</b>		Gender Wage Gap	Reading Guide 12
<b>5-Jun</b>	Zoom: Problem Set Workday	Discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Guide 13</li> <li>• Problem Set 6 due (Gradescope)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 5</b>			
<b>8-Jun</b>	Zoom: Group Workday (optional)	Anti-Discrimination Policy	Reading Guide 14
<b>9-Jun</b>		Income Taxes/Social Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Guide 15</li> <li>• Report 4 due</li> </ul>
<b>10-Jun</b>	Zoom: Problem Set Workday	Family Leave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Guide 16</li> <li>• Problem Set 7 due (Gradescope)</li> </ul>
<b>11-Jun</b>	Zoom: Group Workday (optional)	Prostitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Guide 17</li> <li>• Wage Gap Project due</li> </ul>
<b>12-Jun</b>	Zoom: Problem Set Workday		Problem Set 8 due (Gradescope)
<b>Week 6</b>			

<b>14-Jun</b>			Presentation due
<b>15-Jun</b>	Zoom: Final Exam Q and A		Presentation Evals due
<b>16-Jun</b>	Reading Day		
<b>17-Jun</b>	<b>Cumulative Final Exam</b>		