Economics 4999- The Economics of Gender Issues  
Fall 2009, MWF 2:00-2:50, ECON 13

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Office Hours  
MW 10-11:30  
It is very easy to schedule appointments outside of office hours with me—I am almost always in my office during normal business hours. Just send email or talk to me before or after class.

Course Prerequisite  
This class requires previous completion of Economics 3070, Intermediate Microeconomics, or the equivalent. Do not take this class without the prerequisite!

Textbook  
Hoffman and Averett, Women and the Economy: Family, Work, and Pay

Course Description  
This course will cover economic research on gender-relevant topics such as marriage, divorce, fertility, household division of labor, and gender differences in labor market outcomes.  
The goals of this course are to (1) Expose you to an interesting literature in economics, (2) Demonstrate how economic tools can be applied to a very diverse set of topics, (3) Develop experience reading, summarizing, discussing, synthesizing and even critiquing original research in economics, and (4) Hone your verbal and written communication skills.

Course Requirements  
(1) Midterm Exam: The first 4 weeks of the course will be lecture format, the material from which will be covered on the midterm exam. The midterm exam will be Mon, Sept 21  
(2) Short Summary: During weeks 5-7, I will present several published papers and we will have a class discussion. For each paper, 4-5 students will be assigned to read the paper in advance, and prepare short summaries (1-2 pages) that state the key research question, key findings, and present a list of questions, criticisms and possible extensions. These students will then play a leadership role during the class discussion.  
(3) Paper Presentations and Summaries: During weeks 9-10, students will (in pairs or individually) write a 2-3 page executive summary and make a presentation on a research paper of their choosing.  
(4) Final Paper and Final Presentation: Each student will choose a topic relevant to the course material for their final paper. The paper should discuss a key research question in economics, explain how economic theory has been applied to the question, and review the empirical findings in the literature. The paper, which should be roughly 5 pages long, should include a discussion
of at least 3 research articles in economics. During the last 3 weeks of class, students will present their research projects.

(5) A short quiz will be given on Mon, Oct 5, testing the material presented by the guest lecturer on Monday, Sept 28. You may only take the quiz if you were present for class on Sept 28.

**Grades**

- 25% Midterm Exam
- 8% Small Summary
- 15% Paper Summary and Presentation
- 25% Final Paper
- 10% Final Presentation
- 20% Attendance and Participation *** See Note Below ****
- 2% Quiz

**Attendance**

Attendance is 10% of your final grade. You can have up to 4 absences with no effect on your grade. For each absence after 4, and up through 9, you lose 2 of your 10 attendance points.

**If you miss more than 9 classes (3 weeks of class), you automatically fail the course**

Please note: there is no distinction made between excused and unexcused absences.

**Participation**

Your participation grade will be based on the quality of (a) your contributions to class discussions, (b) your written feedback on class presentations (which all students will provide), and (c) the editing advice you provide to your classmates on their manuscripts. Rude and counter-productive behavior such as texting and having your laptop open during class discussion will severely damage your participation grade.

**Some Additional Notes/Policies**

- **Material from a Missed Lecture:** If you miss a lecture-based class, you are responsible for obtaining notes from a classmate and reading the relevant material in the textbook. I encourage you to come to my office hours to discuss the material you missed, but only after you have reviewed the relevant material and prepared specific questions.
- **Missed Exams:** Make-up exams will not be given. Exam absences will only be excused for compelling circumstances (generally family emergencies or documented illness), in which case the other course material will be re-weighted.
- **Special Accommodations:** Any students needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of disability or religious practice should quickly bring these to my attention.
- **Extra Credit Assignments:** Are not given.
- **Class Disruptions:** Ringing cell phones and pets are not welcome in my class. Texting and non-course related uses of laptops are also inappropriate class activities.
- **Class Start and End Times:** I generally make sure that this class starts and ends on time. If you find that you are frequently late to class or find that I am frequently running over, first check to make sure your watch is set correctly: http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/city.html?n=75
Course Schedule

Aug 24-28 Marriage and Divorce. Ch. 3 & 4

Aug 31- Sept 4 Fertility, Ch 5 & 6

Sep 9-14 Women and the Labor Market, Ch 9 (exclude appendix)

Sep 16-18 The Basics of Empirical Analysis, p.36-48

Sep 21 Midterm Exam


Sep 28 Guest Lecture

Sep 30 & Oct 2 No class


Oct 12-16 Individual Meetings

Oct 19-30 Presentations of Research Articles

Nov 2-6 Individual Meetings

Nov 9-13 Peer Editing of Manuscripts

Nov 16-Dec 11 Presentations of Final Papers
Relevant Articles


