

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 23 McKinnish, Terra “Another Form of On-the-Job Search: Sexually-Integrated Workplaces and Divorce.” *Journal of Human Resources*, Spring 2007.

Sep 25 Goldin, Claudia and Cecilia Rouse. “Orchestrating Impartiality: The Impact of Blind Auditions on Female Musicians.” *American Economic Review*, Sept 2000.

Sep 28 Guest Lecture

Sep 30 & Oct 2 No class

Oct 5 Gertler, Paul, Manisha Shah and Stefano Bertozzi. “Risky Business: The Market for Unprotected Commercial Sex.” *Journal of Political Economy*, June 2005.

Oct 7 Goldin, Claudia and Lawrence Katz. “The Power of the Pill: Oral Contraceptives and Women’s Career and Marriage Decisions.” *Journal of Political Economy*, 2002

Oct 9 Stevenson, Betsey and Justin Wolfers. “Bargaining in the Shadow of the Law: Divorce Laws and Family Distress.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Feb 2006

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

Hotz, V. Joseph, Susan McElroy and Seth Sanders. 2005. "Teenage Childbearing and It's Life-Cycle Consequences: Exploiting a Natural Experiment."

Journal of Human Resources 40: 683-715.

Brien, Michael, Stacy Dickert-Conlin and David Weaver. "Widows Waiting to Wed?" *Journal of Human Resources*, Summer 2004

McDonald, Judith and Robert Thornton. "Do New Male and Female College Graduates Receive Unequal Pay?" *Journal of Human Resources*, Winter 2007

Angrist, Joshua and William Evans. 1998. "Children and Their Parents' Labor Supply: Evidence from Exogenous Variation in Family Size." *American Economic Review*. 88:450-77.

Bailey, Martha. 2006. "More Power to the Pill: The Impact of Contraceptive Freedom on Women's Life-Cycle Labor Supply." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 121:289-320.

Bailey, Martha. "'Mama's Got the Pill': How Anthony Comstock and Griswold v Connecticut Shaped U.S. Childbearing." *American Economic Review*, forthcoming. Available at <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~baileymj/>

Dickert-Conlin Stacy and Amitabh Chandra. "Taxes and the Timing of Births." *Journal of Political Economy*, Feb 1999.

Milligan, Kevin. "Subsidizing the Stork: New Evidence on Tax Incentives and Fertility." *Review of Economics and Statistics*, August 2005.

Baker, Michael, Jonathan Gruber and Kevin Milligan "Universal childcare, maternal labor supply, and family well-being" *Journal of Political Economy*, August 2008

Cristia, Julian. 2008. "The Effect of First Child on Female Labor Supply: Evidence from Women Seeking Fertility Services." *Journal of Human Resources* 43:487-510.

Schilt, Kristen and Wiswall, Matthew. "Before and After: Gender Transitions, Human Capital, and Workplace Experiences." *The Berkeley Electronic Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy*, 2008, Vol.8 Issue 1.

Dahl, Gordon and Enrico Moretti. "The Demand for Sons." *Review of Economic Studies*. October 2008.

Lundberg, Shelley and Elaina Rose. "Child Gender and the Transition to Marriage." *Demography*, May 2003.

Lundberg, Shelley and Elaina Rose. "The Effects of Sons and Daughters on Men's Labor Supply and Wages." *Review of Economics and Statistics*, May 2002.

Lundberg, Shelley, Sabrina Pabilonia and Jennifer Ward-Batts. "Time Allocation of Parents and Investments in Sons and Daughters." Available at:
<http://www.econ.washington.edu/user/Lundberg/papers.html>

Ward-Batts, Jennifer. "Out of the Wallet and Into the Purse: Using Micro Data to Test Income Pooling." *Journal of Human Resources*, Spring 2008.

Stevenson, Betsey and Justin Wolfers. "The Paradox of Declining Female Happiness." Forthcoming *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, available at
<http://bpp.wharton.upenn.edu/betseys/papers.asp>

Thomas S. Dee "Teachers and the Gender Gaps in Student Achievement." *Journal of Human Resources*, Summer 2007.

Carrell, Scott, Marianne Page and James West. "Sex and Science: How Professor Gender Perpetuates the Gender Gap." May 2009, available at:
<http://www.econ.ucdavis.edu/faculty/scarrell/gender.pdf>

Fisman et al., "Gender Differences in Mate Selection: Evidence from a speed-dating experiment." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, May 2006.

Neumark, David, Roy Blank and Kyle Van Nort, "Sex Discrimination in Restaurant Hiring: An Audit Study" *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 1996.

Black, Dan, Amelia Haviland, Seth Sanders and Lowell Taylor. "Gender Wage Disparities Among the Highly Educated." *Journal of Human Resources*. Summer 2008.

Daniel Hamermesh and Jeff Biddle. "Beauty and the Labor Market." *American Economic Review*, 1994.

Svarer, Michael. "Working Late: Do Workplace Sex Ratios Affect Partnership Formation and Dissolution?" *Journal of Human Resources*, Summer 2007

Niederle, Muriel and Lise Vesterlund. "Do Women Shy Away from Competition? Do Men Compete too much?" *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Aug 2007.

Booth, Alison and Patrick Nolen. "Choosing to Compete: How Different are Girls and Boys?" Center for Economic Policy Research, CEPR Discussion Paper No. DP7214, see:
http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1351191

Beaman, Lori, Raghavendra Chattopadhyay, Esther Duflo, Rohini Pande, and Petia Topalova. "Powerful Women: Does Exposure Reduce Bias?", July 2008, available at:
<http://econ-www.mit.edu/files/3122>

Brown, Philip. "Dowry and Intrahousehold Bargaining: Evidence from China." *Journal of Human Resources*, Winter 2009.

Black, Sandra and Elizabeth Brianerd. "Importing Equality? The Effects of Globalization on Gender Discrimination." *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, July 2004.

Andreoni, James, Eleanor Brown and Isaac Rischall. "Charitable Giving by Married Couples: Who Decides and Why Does it Matter?" *Journal of Human Resources*, Winter 2003.

McKinnish, Terra. "Occupational Mobility and Spousal Earnings" *Demography*, November 2008.

Black, Sandra, and Alexandra Spitz-Oener. "Explaining Women's Success: Technological Progress and the Skill Content of Women's work", NBER Working paper #13116 (available at nber.org), May 2007.

Schultz, Paul T. 1985 "Changing World Prices, Women's Wages, and the Fertility Transition: Sweden, 1860-1910." *Journal of Political Economy* 93:1126-54.

Kuhn, Randall, Mushfiq Mobarak and Christina Peters. "Marriage Market Effects of a Wealth Shock in Bangladesh," available at:

<http://www.colorado.edu/Economics/courses/mobarak/>

Angrist, Josh. "How do Sex Ratios Affect Marriage and Labor Markets? Evidence from America's Second Generation." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2002.

Fortin, Nicole. "The Gender Wage Gap Among Young Adults in the United States: The Importance of Money versus People." *Journal of Human Resources*, Fall 2008.

Eissa, Nada and Hilary Hoynes, 2004, "Taxes and the labor market participation of married couples: the earned income tax credit." *Journal of Public Economics* 88:1931-1958.

Daneshvary, Waddoups and Wimmer. 2009. "Previous Marriage and the Lesbian Wage Premium." *Industrial Relations* 48(3): 432-53.

Barber and Odean. "Boys will be Boys: Gender, Overconfidence, and Common Stock Investment" *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Feb 2001, 116(1): 261-292.