

**Economics 447**  
**Economics of Gender**  
**Office Hours: Wed 4-5 PM, or by appointment**

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**Savery M-321**

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### Syllabus

#### Description

Why do women earn less than men? Why has women's labor force participation increased in the past 50 years, while the men's participation has fallen? Why are most nurses women, while most doctors are men? Why is female mortality higher than male mortality in certain parts of the world, while lower in others?

In this class we will see how economic theory can be used to answer questions such as these. We will see how models of labor supply and demand, human capital, discrimination, and allocation of resources within the household can be used to explain differences in outcomes for females and males. We will also see how people have examined data in order to test these theories and explore the implications of policies designed to improve the economic well-being of women.

#### Prerequisites

Intermediate Micro (Econ 300) and one semester of calculus (Math 141 or the equivalent).

#### Text

##### Required:

Blau, Francine, Marianne Ferber and Anne Winkler 1998. *The Economics of Men, Women and Work* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, Third Edition). (BFW)

##### Recommended:

Jacobsen, Joyce. 1998. *The Economics of Gender* (Cambridge: Blackwell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). (On reserve at Odegaard).

Hoffman, Saul D. and Susan L. Averett 2004. *Women and the Economy: Family, Work and Pay* (Addison-Wesley-Longman). (HA)

#### Grading

The final grade will be determined as follows:

3 Midterms	(10/20, 11/1, 11/29)	20 % each
Final Exam	(12/13, 2:30 PM)	40 %

**Makeup exams will be given only under extraordinary and documentable circumstances.**

## Course Outline and Reading List

Note: \*: Required readings.

### **I. Introduction and Review**

\* BFW, Ch. 1, Ch. 2.

Jacobsen, Ch. 1, 2

HA, Ch. 1, Ch. 2 p-1-21.

### **II. Labor Supply and Participation**

\* BFW, Ch. 4

Jacobsen, Ch. 4

HA, Ch. 7 p 1-11, Ch. 7 Appendix.

### **III. Wages and Occupations**

\* BFW, Ch. 5, Ch. 8

Jacobsen, Ch. 6

HA, Ch. 8

### **IV. Human Capital**

\* BFW, Ch. 6.

HA, Ch. 9 Sec 1-2

Jacobson, Ch. 7.

\* Gross, Daniel, 2004. "It's Who You Know. Really. ", *The New York Times*, August 22, 2004.

### **V. Compensating Differentials**

Jacobson, Ch. 8.

### **VI. Discrimination**

\* BFW, Ch. 7.

HA, Ch. 9 Sec 3-4.

Neumark, David et al. 1996. "Sex Discrimination in Restaurant Hiring: An Audit Study" *The Quarterly*

*Journal of Economics.*

\* Goldin, Claudia and Cecelia Rouse. 2000. "Orchestrating Impartiality: The Effect of 'Blind' Auditions on Female Musicians," *American Economic Review* 90(4), Sec. xx-xx.

\* Hamermesh, Daniel S. and Amy M. Parker. 2005. "College Teaching: "Beauty in the Classroom: Professors' Pulchritude and Putative Pedagogical Productivity," *Economics of Education Review*, 2005. <http://www.eco.utexas.edu/faculty/Hamermesh/Teachingbeauty.pdf>

Ginther, Donna. 2001. "Does Science Discriminate Against Women? Evidence from Academia 1973-1997. <http://www.people.ku.edu/~dginther/wp0102.pdf>

Ginther, Donna and Kathy Hayes "Gender Differences in Salary and Promotion for Faculty in the Humanities 1977-1995. <http://www.people.ku.edu/~dginther/HumanitiesJHR.pdf>

\* "A Study on the Status of Women Faculty in Science at MIT" 1999.  
<http://web.mit.edu/fnl/women/women.html#The%20Study>.

## **VII. The Economics of Marriage and Fertility**

\* BFW, Ch. 3, Ch. 9.

Jacobsen, Ch. 3

\* Rose, Elaina. 2004a. "Education, Hypergamy and the Success Gap"  
<http://www.econ.washington.edu/people/detail.asp?uid=erose>.

Rose, Elaina. 2004b. "A Joint Model of Marriage and Partner Choice"  
<http://www.econ.washington.edu/people/detail.asp?uid=erose>.

HA, 3, 4, 5, 6.

## **VIII. The Labor Market and The Family**

Waldfogel, Jane. 1998. "Understanding the 'Family Gap' in Pay for Women with Children", *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 12(1) 137-56.

Korenman, Sanders and David Neumark. 1991. "Does Marriage Really Make Men More Productive?" *Journal of Human Resources* 25(2): 282-307.

\* Varian, Hal R. 2004. "Analyzing the Marriage Gap" *The New York Times*, July 29, 2004.

Lundberg, Shelly and Elaina Rose. 2000. "The Effects of Sons and Daughters on Men's Labor Supply and Wages," *Review of Economics and Statistics*.

## **IX. Investments in Children**

Jacobsen, p. 377-380.

\* BFW, p. 416-427.

Rose, Elaina 1998. "Consumption Smoothing and Excess Female Mortality in Rural India," *Review of Economics and Statistics*, February 1999.

\* Lundberg, Shelly and Elaina Rose. 2000. "Child Gender and the Transition to Marriage"  
*Demography* 40(2) May 2003, p. 333-350.

## **X. Policy Issues and Applications**

\* BFW, Ch. 9.

HA, Ch. 11-Ch.14.