

## **ECON 2217: Women and the Economy** **Winter 2019 Course Syllabus**

Mondays and Wednesdays 11:35-12:55, LSC-COMMON AREA C206

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**Office hours:** Wednesdays 14:30-16:00 (no appointment needed during this time). Meetings at any other time must be arranged in advance, preferably via e-mail.

**Lectures:** Mondays and Wednesdays 11:35-12:55, LSC-COMMON AREA C206

**Course Description:** This course is a second-year reading course on the economics of gender. We will seek answers to questions such as: Why are men paid more than women? Why do men and women work in different occupations? What explains the rise in labour force participation of women in the post-World War II era? Why are there now more women than men enrolled in colleges and still women are underrepresented in the top management positions? Do families make decisions as one economic unit or do different members bargain with one another? Are there physiological differences between men and women which explain differences in behaviour? We will apply economic models of comparative advantage and specialization, supply and demand, consumer choice, human capital, and discrimination to explore the answers to these questions. While economic theory will frame our discussion, the course will examine historical trends and empirical studies that attempt to answer these questions with data.

**Course Prerequisites:** Economics 1101, 1102

**Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will attain, through lectures, weekly readings and quizzes and assignment, the knowledge of the foundation of economics of gender.
- Students will be able to critically assess and analyze the scholarly articles through weekly readings.
- Students will relate the academic articles taught in the class to the experiences of generations of women in their families through interviewing them and writing a paper critically analyzing these interviews in relation to the class material.

**Course Materials:** Our *course will not use a textbook, but the following books may be of interest to you:*

- Blau, Francine D., Ferber Marianne A. and Winkler Anne E. 2014. *The Economics of Women, Men, and Work*, (7<sup>th</sup> Edition), New Jersey: Pearson. [BFW]
- Sandberg, Sheryl. 2013. *Lean In: Women, Work and the Will to Lead*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

**Course Assessment:**

1. Midterm: 30% (in class on Wednesday, February 27)
2. Final: 40% (during Final Week, date to be announced)
3. Quizzes and Class Participation: 15% (12 Quizzes, top 10 will be considered, each worth 1.5%)
4. Assignment: 15% (in class on Wednesday, April 3rd)

**Exams:** Exams will draw heavily from lectures and exercise questions. They are not open-book. They are not multiple-choice. The final exam will cover the subject matter of the entire course. *If you miss the midterm or final exam for a valid medical reason, you must notify the instructor immediately, provide appropriate medical documentation, and make arrangements to write-up exam as soon as health permits.*

#### NECESSARY ATTENDANCE DATES FOR THE EXAMS

**Mid-term:** Wednesday, February 27, 2019 between 11:35 and 12:55 in LSC-COMMON AREA C206.

**Final Exam:** The date, time and place of the final exam will be determined by the Registrar's Office.

**Quizzes:** Each week, you will be delivered an unannounced quiz on readings covered in the previous class. I will distribute the potential questions for the quizzes at the beginning of the semester and they will also be posted on Brightspace. There will be 12 quizzes and the lowest two quizzes will be dropped. Each quiz will worth 1.5% of your final grade. Quizzes will be 10-15 minutes long. No make-ups will be given if you miss a quiz.

**Class Participation:** (1) Students are expected to attend every lecture, complete the readings in advance of the lecture, and participate in classroom discussion; (2) When you miss a lecture, you cannot get the handout for that missed lecture from me.

**Assignment:** During this course, there will be one assignment which will worth 15% of your final grade. Late assignments will be marked down by 20 percent per day. Any exception requires a legitimate reason listed in the Dalhousie University Calendar under section 16.8 of “Academic Regulations.”

**Assignment Due Date:** Wednesday, April 3rd, 2019 at 11:35 in LSC-COMMON AREA C206.

**Grading:** Grades will be determined according to the following scale:

A+	(90-100)	B+	(77-79)	C+	(65-69)	D	(50-54)
A	(85-89)	B	(73-76)	C	(60-64)	F	(<50)
A-	(80-84)	B-	(70-72)	C-	(55-59)		

*\*Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who would like to discuss classroom or exam accommodations are asked to come and see me as soon as possible.*

**Email Policy:** I will do my best to respond to e-mail within 24 hours on a weekday, 48 hours on a weekend, according to the following policy:

- I will only respond to e-mails posing questions that can be answered in a sentence or two. For detailed questions, please see me in office hours.
- I will not reply to e-mails that request information that can be found on Brightspace or the syllabus, so you should check those places first.
- I will not reply to e-mails regarding the results of graded material—for that, please see me in office hours.

You are encouraged to use the Brightspace posting board and to answer questions posed on it.

## **General Readings:**

There is no Canadian textbook for Women and the Economy class, so we will use series of required readings from US-base books, journals and newspaper articles. Most of the readings are available on-line and will be provided in Brightspace. Many of the readings that are printed in economic journals such as the American Economic Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics and Journal of Economic Perspectives are available through **JSTOR** (journal archive), the Killam Library and in Brightspace.

## **COURSE OUTLINE** (*subject to change*):

### **I. Introduction/Overview of Women's Progress and Missing Women**

What are the issues in economics of gender?  
Review of economic concepts, supply and demand  
Overview of Women in Canada  
Missing women in Asia

[BFW] Chapters 1 and 2.

Goldin, Claudia. 2006. "The Quiet Revolution That Transformed Women's Employment, Education, and Family," *American Economic Review*, 96 (2): 1-21.

Women in Canada: A Gender-based Statistical Report 2017.

Arriagada, Paula. First Nations, Métis and Inuit Women

Goldin, Claudia. 2014. "A Grand Gender Convergence: It's Last Chapter." AEA Presidential Address

Sen, Amartya. 1990. "More than 100 Women are missing." *New York Review of Books*.

Qian, Nancy. 2008. "Missing Women and the Price of Tea in China: The Effect of Sex-specific Income on Sex Imbalance." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 123(3): 1251-1285.

### **II. Economics of Marriage, Family and Gender Roles**

Specialization and exchange: comparative advantage  
Supply and demand and marriage markets  
Household bargaining models  
Family Planning Technologies

[BFW] Chapter 3.

"Study Finds More Reason to get and Stay Married" NYT article published Jan 2015.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/08/upshot/study-finds-more-reasons-to-get-and-staymarried.html?abt=0002&abg=1>

"Marital Choices are Exacerbating Household Income Inequality" *Economists* published on September 2017. <https://www.economist.com/news/finance-and-economics/21729465-opposites-dont-attract-marital-choices-are-exacerbating-household-income-inequality>

“Online Dating and the Search for True Love - or Loves”. Maclean article published on February 2013. <http://www.macleans.ca/society/life/true-loves/>

Anderson, Siwan. 2014. “Human Capital Effects of Marriage Payments.” IZA World of Labor. [https://econ.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2015/09/pdf\\_paper\\_siwan-anderson-human-capital-effects-of-marriage-payments-1.pdf](https://econ.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2015/09/pdf_paper_siwan-anderson-human-capital-effects-of-marriage-payments-1.pdf)

Bailey, Martha and Jason Lindo. 2018. “Access and Use of Contraception and Its Effects on Women’s Outcomes in the U.S.”. in Oxford Handbook on the Economics of Women, ed. Susan L. Averett, Laura M. Argys, and Saul D. Hoffman, New York: Oxford University Press.

Goldin, Claudia and Lawrence F. Katz. 2002. “The Power of the Pill: Oral Contraceptives and Women’s Career and Marriage Decisions.” *Journal of Political Economy*, 110 (4): 730-770.

Myers, Caitlin Knowles. *Forthcoming*. “The Power of Abortion Policy: Re-examining the Effects of Young Women’s Access to Reproductive Control.” *Journal of Political Economy*.

Anderson, Siwan. 2014. “Human Capital Effects of Marriage Payments.” IZA World of Labor. [https://econ.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2015/09/pdf\\_paper\\_siwan-anderson-human-capital-effects-of-marriage-payments-1.pdf](https://econ.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2015/09/pdf_paper_siwan-anderson-human-capital-effects-of-marriage-payments-1.pdf)

Duflo, Esther. 2003. “Grandmothers and Granddaughters: Old Age Pension on Child and Intra-Household Allocation in South Africa.” *World Bank Economic Review* 17: 1-25.

Alesina, Alberto, Paola Giuliano and Nathan Nunn. 2013. “On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 128(2): 469-530.

“For the first time in history, women are better educated than their husbands—but men still earn more” CNBC published November 2017. <https://www.cnn.com/amp/2017/11/21/women-are-better-educated-than-their-husbands-but-men-still-earn-more.html>

Bertrand Marianne, Emir Kamenica and Jessica Pan. 2015. “Gender Identity and Relative Income within Households.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 130(2): 571-614.

### **III. Consequences of Working Women: The New Household**

Time use data: hours of market work, housework, and leisure  
Working mothers and children’s outcomes  
Women’s wellbeing

[BFW] Chapters 4 and 10.

Benjamin, D.; Gunderson, M.; Lemieux, T and Riddell, C. 2012. *Labour Market Economics. 7th Edition*. Chapter 2 “Labour Supply: Individual Attachment to the Labour Market.” (Available in Economics office or Killam library reserve).

“Parents now spend twice as much time with their children as 50 years ago”, Economists published on Nov 2017. <https://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2017/11/daily-chart-20>

Baker, Michael, Jonathan Gruber and Kevin Milligan. 2008. "Universal Child Care, Maternal Labor Supply and Family Well-Being." *Journal of Political Economy*, 116(4): 709-745.

Kottelenberg, Michael and Steven Lehrer. 2017. "Targeted or Universal Coverage? Assessing Heterogeneity in the Effects of Universal Child Care." *Journal of Labor Economics*, 35(3): 609-653.

Stevenson, Betsy and Justin Wolfers. 2009. "The Paradox of Declining Female Happiness." *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 1(2): 190–222.

#### **IV. Gender Differences in Occupations and Earnings and Potential Explanations**

Trends in the Gender Earnings Gap and Occupational Segregation

Human Capital Model

On-the-Job-Training

Labour Market Discrimination

Alternative Explanations and Recent Developments

[BFW] Chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Benjamin, D., Gunderson, M., Lemieux, T and Riddell, C. 2012. *Labour Market Economics. 7th Edition.* Chapter 12 "Economics of Discrimination." (Available in Economics office or Killam library reserve).

Fortin, Nicole. 2016. "Earnings Inequality and the Gender Pay Gap." State of the Art Lecture, CEA Meetings. [http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/nfortin/Fortin\\_EarningsInequalityGenderPayGap.pdf](http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/nfortin/Fortin_EarningsInequalityGenderPayGap.pdf)

Blau, Francine D. and Lawrence M. Kahn. 2017. "The Gender Wage Gap: Extent, Trends, and Explanations." *Journal of Economic Literature*, 55(3): 789-865.

Lundborg, Petter, Erik Plug, and Astrid Würtz Rasmussen. 2017. "Can Women Have Children and a Career? IV Evidence from IVF Treatments." *American Economic Review*, 107(6): 1611-37.

Blau, Francine D. and Anne E. Winkler. 2018. "Women, Work and Family." in *Oxford Handbook of Women and the Economy*, Susan L. Averett, Laura M. Argys, and Saul D. Hoffman, eds., Oxford University Press.

Goldin, Claudia, Lawrence Katz, and Ilyana Kuziemko. 2006. "The Homecoming of American College Women: The Reversal in the Gender Gap in College," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 20(4): 133-156.

"The First Women in Tech Didn't Leave—Men Pushed Them Out" WSJ published on Dec 2017.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-first-women-in-tech-didnt-leavemen-pushed-them-out-1512907200>

Card, David and Abigail Payne. 2017. "High School Choices and the Gender Gap in STEM." NBER WP 23769.

Card, David, Thomas Lemieux and Craig Ridell, 2018. "Unions and Wage Inequality: The Roles of Gender, Skill and Public Sector Employment", NBER WP25313.

Goldin, Claudia and Cecelia Rouse. 2000. "Orchestrating Impartiality: The Effect of 'Blind' Auditions on Female Musicians." *American Economic Review* 90(4): 715-741.

Bertrand, Marianne and Kevin Hallock. 2001. "The Gender Gap in Top Corporate Jobs." *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, 55(1): 3-21.

Bertrand, Marianne, Claudia Goldin and Lawrence F. Katz. 2010. "Dynamics of the Gender Gap for Young Professionals in the Financial and Corporate Sectors." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 2(3): 228-255.

Niederle, Muriel and Lise Vesterlund. 2007. "Do Women Shy Away from Competition? Do Men Compete Too Much?" *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 122 (3): 1067-1101.

Leibbrandt, Andreas and John List. 2015. "Do Women Avoid Salary Negotiations? Evidence from a Large Scale Natural Field Experiment." *Management Science*, 61(9): 2016-2024.

Flory, Jeffrey, Andreas Leibbrandt, and John List. 2015. "Do Competitive Work Places Deter Female Workers? A Large-scale Natural Field Experiment on Job-Entry Decisions." *Review of Economic Studies*, 82(1): 122-155.