ECON 2217: Women and the Economy  
Winter 2019 Course Syllabus

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

Prof. Mevlude Akbulut-Yuksel  
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Phone: 494-8011 or 494-2026 (secretaries)  
E-mail: mevlude@dal.ca  
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:

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

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:

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>(90-100)</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>(85-89)</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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*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:

a. 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.
b. 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.
c. 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.


Arriagada, Paula. First Nations, Métis and Inuit Women


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.


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


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.


**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.


