

Department of Economics
ECON 2217 (GWST 2217): Women and the Economy
Winter 2024 Course Syllabus

Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.

We acknowledge the histories, contributions, and legacies of the African Nova Scotian people and communities who have been here for over 400 years.

Mondays and Wednesdays 11:35-12:55, Studley MCCAIN ARTS&SS 2176

Instructor: Prof. Mevlude Akbulut-Yuksel, Dalhousie University, Department of Economics

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Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:35-12:55, Studley MCCAIN ARTS&SS 2176

Office hours: Wednesdays 9:30-11:20. Meetings at other times should be arranged in advance via e-mail and will take place in Zoom or in-person.

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, labour supply and labour 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. 2019. *The Economics of Women, Men, and Work*, (8th Edition), Oxford University Press. [BFW]

- Goldin, Claudia. 2021. *Career and Family: Women's Century-Long Journey toward Equity*, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

Course Assessment:

1. Midterm: 30% (Wednesday, February 28, 2024, in-person during the class time (11:35-12:55))
2. Final: 35% (during Final Week, date to be announced)
3. Quizzes: 20% (5 Quizzes, each worth 4%, January 22 (Quiz #1), February 5 (Quiz #2), February 14 (Quiz #3), March 13 (Quiz #4), March 27 (Quiz #5) during the class time, duration of the quizzes will be 25 minutes)
4. Assignment: 15% (April 3, 2024, 23:59 AST)

Exams: Exams will draw heavily from lectures and exercise questions. Each exam will cover the specified topics only, not the entire course material. ***Students are required to notify me via email prior to the start of the exam if they cannot write the final exam. Depending on the circumstances of the student, an arrangement for an alternative date for final will be made.***

NECESSARY ATTENDANCE DATES FOR THE EXAMS

Mid-term: Wednesday, February 28, 2024, between 11:35 and 12:55 in Studley MCCAIN ARTS&SS 2176

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

Quizzes: Almost every other week, you will be delivered an in-class quiz on readings covered in the previous classes. There will be 5 quizzes in total. Each quiz will worth 4% of your final grade. Quizzes will be around 20-25 minutes long. ***No make-ups will be given if you miss a quiz.*** Quizzes are aimed to increase the class attendance as well as participation in classroom discussions.

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.” Each assignment should be submitted individually, and no student collaboration is allowed. You are expected to submit your assignment through Turnitin in the Brightspace.

Assignment Due Date: April 3, 2024, 23:59 AST

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)		

Email Policy: I will do my best to respond to e-mail within 24 hours on a weekday, 48 hours on a weekend. Students are encouraged to join weekly online or in-person office hours for face-to-face discussions and live engagement. Students are also highly encouraged to explore 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 journals, StatCan reports 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 Economics journals such as the American Economic Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics and Journal of Economic Perspectives, which are available through **JSTOR** (journal archive), and the Killam Library. You can also google the journal articles from the Dal system to access them. These journal articles will be also posted in Brightspace.

COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Introduction/Overview of Women's Progress over the 20th and 21st Centuries

What are the issues in economics of gender?

Review of economic concepts, supply, demand, labour supply and labour demand

Overview of Women in Canada

[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.

Bertrand Marianne. 2020. "Gender in 21st Century." AEA Richard T. Ely Lecture

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

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] Chapters 3 and 4.

"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>

"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>

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

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.

Bailey, Martha. "Equal opportunities begin with contraception". *Nature* 2020.

Myers, Caitlin Knowles. 2017. "The Power of Abortion Policy: Re-examining the Effects of Young Women's Access to Reproductive Control." *Journal of Political Economy*, 125 (6): 2178-2224.

III. Labour Supply Decision, Public Policy and Working Women

Time use data: hours of market work, housework, and leisure.

Working mothers and children's outcomes

Women's wellbeing

[BFW] Chapter 6.

Benjamin, Dwayne, Morley Gunderson, Thomas Lemieux, Craig Riddell, Tammy Schirle. 2021. *Market Economics. 9th Edition*. Chapter 2 "Labour Supply: Individual Attachment to the Labour Market." (Available in Economics office or Killam library reserve).

Kleven, Henrik, Camille Landais, Johanna Posch, Andreas Steinhauer and Josef Zweimüller. 2019. "Child Penalties across Countries: Evidence and Explanations." *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 109: 122-126.

Kleven, Henrik, Camille Landais, Johanna Posch, Andreas Steinhauer, and Josef Zweimüller. *Forthcoming*. "Do Family Policies Reduce Gender Inequality? Evidence from 60 Years of Policy Experimentation", *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*.

Olivetti, Claudia, and Barbara Petrongolo. 2017. "The Economic Consequences of Family Policies: Lessons from a Century of Legislation in High-Income Countries." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 31 (1): 205-30.

Patnaik, Antika, 2019. "Reserving Time for Daddy: The Consequences of Fathers' Quotas." *Journal of Labour Economics*, 37 (4).

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

Baker, Michael, Jonathan Gruber, and Kevin Milligan. 2019. "The Long-Run Impacts of a Universal Childcare Program." *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 11 (3): 1-26.

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 7-12.

Benjamin, Dwayne, Morley Gunderson, Thomas Lemieux, Craig Riddell, Tammy Schirle. 2021. *Labour Market Economics. 9th Edition*. Chapter 12 “Economics of Discrimination.” (Available in Economics office or Killam library reserve).

Bonikowska, Aneta, Marie Drolet, and Nicole Fortin. 2019. “Earnings Inequality and the Gender Pay Gap in Canada: The Role of Women’s Under-representation among Top Earners.” *Economic Insights*, Statistics Canada.

Bertrand, Marianne, Sandra Black, Sissel Jensen and Adriana Lleras-Muney. 2019. “Breaking the Glass Ceiling? The Effect of Board Quotas on Female Labour Market Outcomes in Norway.” *Review of Economic Studies*, 86 (1): 191-239.

Barbara Biasi, and Heather Sarsons. 2022. “Flexible Wages, Bargaining, and the Gender Gap”. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 137 (1): 215–266.

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.

Buser, T., M. Niederle, and H. Oosterbeek. 2014. “Gender, Competitiveness, and Career Choices.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 129 (3): 1409-1447.

Goldin, Claudia. 2014. “A Grand Gender Convergence: It’s Last Chapter.” AEA Presidential Address