

Syllabus
Economics BC 2010y: The Economics of Gender
Lectures: Monday and Wednesday 1:10 – 2:25 237 Milbank

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Course description: In this course we will study a wide range of economic issues faced by women, and examine how these issues have changed over the course of the 20th century. We will learn and use the tools of microeconomic analysis to understand how economists model women's economic decision-making, and to gain insight into how microeconomic theory can explain some of the changes faced by women. The course will be comprised of lectures and student-led discussions.

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course web page: Problem sets, handouts, important announcements, and other information will be posted on the Courseworks page for this class at <https://courseworks.columbia.edu>, or go to the url:

https://courseworks.columbia.edu/cms/outview/courseenter.cfm?no=ECONX2010_001_2006_1

I will also email announcements to the class occasionally via the class email on Courseworks. Note that Courseworks can send email only to your columbia.edu address. You are responsible for information in these announcements, so please use email forwarding if you wish to receive email to your Barnard address or any other address – instructions can be found at <http://www.columbia.edu/acis/email/delivery/forward.html>.

Textbook: The required text for the course is Women and the Economy: Family, Work, and Pay, by Saul Hoffman and Susan Averett, Pearson Addison Wesley. 2005. ISBN 0-201-74559-3. It is available at the Columbia University bookstore. Additional readings are outlined on the separate reading list. A few more readings may be assigned or substituted during the semester.

Evaluation: You will earn your grade in this class based upon the following requirements:

- 1) 5 or 6 problem sets (10%)
- 2) participation (10%)
- 3) your leading a class discussion (perhaps with another student) and preparing a study guide for the material discussed (15%).
- 4) one midterm (30%) – Wednesday March 8.
- 5) a cumulative final (35%) - to be scheduled by the registrar during the exam period.

Academic honesty: is expected as detailed in the Barnard Honor Code at <http://www.barnard.edu/dos/honor.html>. I take cheating very seriously; dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course if circumstances warrant.

Note regarding special accommodations: Students with disabilities who will be taking this course and may need disability-related classroom accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment to see me as soon as possible. Also, stop by the Office of Disability Services in 105 Hewitt to register for support services if you have not already done so. If you need special accommodations for an exam you must email me for an appointment at least 3 weeks prior to the exam and bring your Test Accommodations form. Make a copy of the form for me to keep for my records. You need to do this separately for both the midterm and the final. The form is available at http://www.barnard.edu/ods/forms/14_testaccomm1.html.

Rough Schedule of Topics to be Covered (Chapter in text (•))

<i>WEEK 1: Jan 18</i>	Introduction (1)
<i>WEEK 2: Jan 23, 25</i>	Gains to Specialization within Marriage (3)
<i>WEEK 3: Jan 30, Feb 1</i>	Other Benefits from Marriage (3)
<i>WEEK 4: Feb 6, 8</i>	Other Benefits from Marriage - continued; Divorce (4)
<i>WEEK 5: Feb 13, 15</i>	Fertility (5)
<i>WEEK 6: Feb 20, 22</i>	Fertility - continued (5)
<i>WEEK 7: Feb 27, Mar 1</i>	Family Structure and Child Well-Being (15)
<i>WEEK 8: Mar 6,8</i>	Labor Force Participation (7)
• Midterm: Wednesday, March 8	
MIDTERM BREAK March 13 – 17	
<i>WEEK 9: Mar 20, 22</i>	The Labor Supply Decision (7)
<i>WEEK 10: Mar 27, 29</i>	The Gender Wage Gap: Occupational Segregation; Supply and Demand (8)
<i>WEEK 11: April 3, 5</i>	Human Capital and Discrimination (9)
<i>WEEK 12: April 10, 12</i>	Human Capital and Discrimination - continued (9)
<i>WEEK 13: April 17, 19</i>	Statistical Analysis of the Gender Wage Gap (10)
<i>WEEK 14: April 24, 26</i>	Poverty (12)
<i>WEEK 15: May 1</i>	Catch-up

Preliminary Reading List and Discussion Schedule
Economics BC 2010: The Economics of Gender

- The discussion dates may change depending on the pace of the course. I will keep an updated reading list on the course page with dates, exact page numbers for readings, and any additional readings that may be assigned during the semester. Be sure to check the updated reading list before you begin reading.
- You will need to bring hard copies of the readings to the class discussions; they are available electronically, either via urls listed alphabetically by author at the end of this reading list, or via the course page.
- The dates listed for readings are the dates we will be covering them in class, so the reading should be done in advance of those dates. Don't wait until the night before class to print out the readings - allow more time in case there are printer malfunctions, Courseworks outages, etc.
- Chapters refer to chapters from Hoffman and Averett.
- There is a small charge from the Harvard Business Review for the Hewlett article which I will need to collect from you later in the semester.

WEEK 1: Jan 18 Introduction

Start the readings for next week!

WEEK 2: Jan 23, 25 Gains to Specialization within Marriage

Chapter 1 -- Introduction

Chapter 2 -- Economics Tools

Chapter 3 – Marriage and the Family: An Economic Approach

Chapter 15, Section 4 on the distribution of resources within the family - read this before you read the Blau article.

PROFESSOR-LED DISCUSSION: Historical perspectives

Reading questions 1 due, attendance required.

1) Blau, Francine. 1998. "Trends in the Well-being of American Women, 1970-1995." *Journal of Economic Literature*.

2) Goldin, Claudia. 1995. "The U-Shaped Female Labor Force Function in Economic Development and Economic History." In Investment in Women's Human Capital, edited by T. Paul Schultz. University of Chicago Press. (on reserve and on course page)

WEEK 3: Jan 30, Feb 1 Other Benefits from Marriage

Chapter 3 - Marriage and the Family: An Economic Approach, Sections 1 - 5, Box 3.2

Chapter 4 - Marriage and the Family: Economic Issues and Applications, Section 3:
Marriage and the Earnings of Men

STUDENT-LED DISCUSSION: Evaluating the gains from specialization

Reading questions 2 due, attendance required.

- 1) Friedan, Betty. 1963. The Feminine Mystique. "The Problem That Has No Name." (on reserve and on course page)
- 2) Hochschild, Arlie, with Anne Machung. 1990. The second shift : working parents and the revolution at home. New York: Avon Books. Chapter 4: "Joey's Problem: Nancy and Evan Holt." (on reserve and on course page)
- 3) Maduro, E.S. 2002. "Excuse Me While I Explode." In The Bitch in the House, edited by Cathi Hanauer. William Morrow. (on reserve and on course page)

WEEK 4: Feb 6, 8 **Other Benefits from Marriage (continued); Divorce**

Chapter 4 -- Marriage and the Family: Economic Issues and Applications

STUDENT-LED DISCUSSION: The benefits of marriage

Reading questions 3 due, attendance required.

- 1) Hekker, Terry Martin. 12/20/77. "The Satisfactions of Housewifery and Motherhood in 'an Age of Do-Your-Own-Thing.'" *New York Times*. (on course page)
- 2) Hekker, Terry Martin. 1/1/06. "Paradise Lost (Domestic Division)." *New York Times*. (on course page)
- 3) Miya-Jervis, Lisa. June 2000. "Who Wants to Marry a Feminist?" *Ms. Magazine*
- 4) Ribar, David. 2003. "What Do Social Scientists Know about the Benefits of Marriage? A Review of Quantitative Methodologies." excerpt from Executive Summary. (on course page)
- 5) Waite, Linda. 1995. "Does Marriage Matter" *Demography* Vol 32 No 4.

WEEK 5: Feb 13, 15 **Divorce (continued); Fertility**

STUDENT-LED DISCUSSION: The economic consequences of divorce

Reading questions 4 due, attendance required.

- 1) Kurz, Demie. 1995. For Richer For Poorer: Mothers Confront Divorce. Routledge. Chapter 4: "Coping with Divorce" and part of Chapter 5: "Dividing Resources." (on reserve and on course page)
- 2) Schembari, James. 6/27/03. "When It Comes to Child Custody, Who Pays for Yale?" *New York Times*. (on course page)

Chapter 5 – The Economics of Fertility

WEEK 6: Feb 20, 22 **Fertility (continued)**

VIDEO: The Pill Attending at least one of the 2 videos is mandatory.

STUDENT-LED DISCUSSION: Economic effects of the pill

Reading questions 5 due, attendance required.

- 1) VIDEO: The Pill
- 2) The Economist, 12/31/99. "Oral Contraceptives: The Liberator." *The Economist*. 353(8151) p. 102.
- 3) Goldin, Claudia and Larry Katz. 2001. "On the Pill: Changing the Course of Women's Education." *The Milken Institute Review: A Journal of Economic Policy* 3.

WEEK 7: Feb 29, Mar 1 *Family Structure and Child Well-Being*

Chapter 15 Family Structure and Children's Well-Being

England, Paula and Nancy Folbre. 1999. "Who Should Pay for the Kids?" The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. 563. (on course page)

STUDENT-LED DISCUSSION: Pro-marriage policies

Reading questions 6 due, attendance required.

- 1) Horn, Wade. 2001. "Wedding Bell Blues: Marriage and Welfare Reform," Brookings Review Vol.19.
- 2) Lyman, Rick. 2/15/05. "Trying to Strengthen 'I Do' With a More Binding Legal Tie." *New York Times* (on course page)
- 3) Parke, Mary. 2003. "Are Married Parents Really Better for Children? What Research Says About the Effects of Family Structure on Child Well-Being" Center for Law and Social Policy, Couples and Marriage series Brief #3 (annotated version) (on course page)
- 4) Pear, Robert and David Kirkpatrick. 1/14/04 "Bush Plans \$1.5 Billion Drive for Promotion of Marriage" *New York Times* (on course page)
- 5) Roberts, Paula. 2004. "I Can't Give you Anything But Love: Would Poor Couples With Children Be Better Off Economically if They Married?" Center for Law and Social Policy, Couples and Marriage series Brief #5 (on course page)

WEEK 8: Mar 6, 8 *Labor Force Participation: Issues*

Chapter 7 -- Women at Work

• **Midterm: Wednesday, March 8**

MIDTERM BREAK March 13 – 17

WEEK 9: Mar 20, 22 *The Labor Supply Decision*

Chapter 7 -- Women at Work

WEEK 10: Mar 27, 29 *The Gender Wage Gap: Occupational Segregation; Supply and Demand*

Chapter 8 -- Earnings, Occupation, and the Labor Market: An Overview

STUDENT-LED DISCUSSION: labor force participation today

Reading questions 7 due, attendance required.

- 1) Gibbs, Nancy. 4/15/02. "Making Time for a Baby." *Time*. (on course page)
- 2) Hewlett, Sylvia. 2002. "Executive Women and the Myth of Having It All." *Harvard Business Review*.
- 3) Poniewozik, James. 4/15/02. "The Cost of Starting Families First." *Time*. (on course page)
- 4) Royston, Nikki. 2/2/00. "When the big news is a big bummer." *Salon.com*
- 5) Story, Louise. 9/20/05. "Many Women at Elite Colleges Set Career Path to Motherhood." *New York Times*. (on course page)
- 6) Letters to the editor responding to Story article. (on course page)
- 7) Wallis, Claudia. 3/22/2004. "The Case for Staying Home." *Time*. (on course page)

WEEK 11: April 3, 5 *Human Capital and Discrimination*

Chapter 9 -- The Gender Gap in Earnings: Explanations

WEEK 12: April 10, 12 *Discrimination (continued)*

Chapter 11 - Women's Employment and Earnings: Policy pp. 399-413

Reskin, Barbara and Denise Bielby. 2005. "A Sociological Perspective on Gender and Career Outcomes." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* (19)1:71–86. (on course page)

Monday April 11: VIDEO: Rosie the Riveter. Attending at least one of the 2 videos is mandatory.

STUDENT-LED DISCUSSION: Discrimination? then and now

Reading questions 8 due, attendance required.

- 1) VIDEO: Rosie the Riveter
- 2) Angier, Natalie and Kenneth Chang. 1/24/05. "Gray Matter and Sexes: A Gray Area Scientifically." *New York Times*. (on course page)
- 3) Bombardieri, Marcella. 1/17/05. "Summers' remarks on women draw fire." *Boston Globe*. (on course page)
- 4) Brown, Harriet. 1998 (September/October) "After the Suit, How do Women Fit in at Mitsubishi?" *Ms. Magazine*. (on course page)
- 5) Dean, Cornelia. 2/1/05. "For Some Girls, the Problem With Math Is That They're Good at It." *New York Times*. (on course page)
- 6) Greenhouse, Steven and Constance Hays. 6/23/04. "Wal-Mart Sex-Bias Suit Given Class-Action Status." *New York Times*. (on course page)
- 7) McGeehan, Patrick 7/14/04. "Discrimination on Wall Street? The Numbers Tell the Story." *New York Times*. (on course page)
- 8) Summers, Lawrence. 1/14/05. "Remarks at NBER Conference on Diversifying the Science & Engineering Workforce." <http://www.president.harvard.edu/speeches/2005/nber.html>
- 9) Whalen, Jeanne and Sharon Begley. 3/30/05. "Improved Formula: In England, Girls Are Closing Gap With Boys in Math." *Wall Street Journal*. (on course page)

WEEK 13: April 17, 19 *Statistical Analysis of the Gender Wage Gap*

Chapter 10 -- The Gender Gap in Earnings: Methods and Evidence

WEEK 14: April 24, 26 *Poverty*

Chapter 12 -- Poverty, Welfare, and Women

STUDENT DISCUSSION: why women are more likely to be poor

Reading questions 9 due, attendance required.

- 1) Bernstein, Nina 6/3/02. "Strict Limits on Welfare Benefits Discourage Marriage, Studies Say." *New York Times*. (on course page)
- 2) Edin, Kathryn. 2000. "Few Good Men: Why Poor Women Don't Remarry," *The American Prospect* 11(4).

3) McLanahan, Sara, and Erin Kelly. 1999. "The Feminization of Poverty: Past and Future." in The Handbook of the Sociology of Gender, edited by Janet Saltzman Chafetz, Kluwer Academic/Plenum publishers. (on course page)

WEEK 15: May 1 Catch-up

URLS FOR READINGS:

Blau, Francine . 1998. "Trends in the Well-being of American Women, 1970-1995." *Journal of Economic Literature*.
<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-0515%28199803%2936%3A1%3C112%3ATITWOA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-O>

The Economist, 12/31/99. "Oral Contraceptives: The Liberator." *The Economist*. 353(8151) p. 102.
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=97&sid=1&srchmode=3&vinst=PROD&fmt=3&startpage=-1&clientid=15403&yname=PQD&did=000000047541553&scaling=FULL&ts=1070558705&vtype=PQD&rqt=309&TS=1070558734&clientId=15403&cc=1&TS=1070558734>

Edin, Kathryn. 2000. "Few Good Men: Why Poor Women Don't Remarry," *The American Prospect* 11(4).
<http://www.prospect.org/print/V11/4/edin-k.html>

Goldin, Claudia and Larry Katz. 2001. "On the Pill: Changing the Course of Women's Education." *The Milken Institute Review: A Journal of Economic Policy* 3 (2nd Quarter), pp. 12-21.
<http://kuznets.fas.harvard.edu/~goldin/papers/milken.pdf>

Horn, Wade. 2001. "Wedding Bell Blues: Marriage and Welfare Reform," *Brookings Review* Vol.19.
<http://www.brookings.edu/press/review/summer2001/horn.htm>

Miya-Jervis, Lisa. June 2000. "Who Wants to Marry a Feminist?" *Ms. Magazine*.
<http://www.msmagazine.com/jun2k/marryafeminist.html>

Ooms, Theodora. 2002 (April 8) "Marriage Plus." *American Prospect*. Vol. 13, #7, annotated version.
http://www.clasp.org/publications/marriage_plus.pdf

Royston, Nikki. 2/2/00. "When the big news is a big bummer." *Salon.com*
<http://www.salon.com/mwt/feature/2000/02/02/bummer/index.html>

Summers, Lawrence. 1/14/05. "Remarks at NBER Conference on Diversifying the Science & Engineering Workforce." <http://www.president.harvard.edu/speeches/2005/nber.html>

Waite, Linda. 1995. "Does Marriage Matter" *Demography* Vol 32 No 4. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0070-3370%28199511%2932%3A4%3C483%3ADMM%3E2.0.CO%3B2-J>