

YORK UNIVERSITY - Fall 2010 - Department of Economics

Economics 3709 - Economics of Gender

Instructor: Prof. Berta Esteve-Volart (Vari Hall 1066, berta@econ.yorku.ca)

Office hours: Tuesday 1:30- 2:30 pm or by appointment

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OH: Wednesday and Thursday 12:00 - 1:00 pm, Vari Hall 1085

Course Description The course introduces students to gender gaps and discrimination, especially in connection with labour markets, policy towards gender equality, and other features of family economics, such as marital transfers and issues of power within the family. The course examines empirical evidence from developed (especially the US) and developing countries.

Prerequisites: AP/ECON 1000 3.0/1010 3.0 or equivalents

Required Textbook Blau, Francine, Marianne Ferber, and Anne Winkler, *The economics of women, men, and work* (New Jersey: Prentice Hall) (henceforth BFW). Note: the chapters below are numbered according to the latest (7th edition), if you have the 6th one check them with the titles

Other Readings Students will be able to download required papers from economics journals from the website

Grading Scheme Paper: 35%, Midterm: 25%, Final exam: 40%

Midterm and final exam

The midterm will cover the first half of the course material. The final exam will cover the entire course with more emphasis on the second half of the course. Midterm: November 4. Final exam: to be determined by the university.

Make up policy and deadlines

There will be no make up exams for either the midterm or the final exam. For students missing the midterm, the weight of the midterm will be carried to their final exam.

Deadline to agree with me on a topic for the paper: November 2

Deadline for paper submission: last day of class

Paper

Every student should submit a paper by the end of the lectures. Every student should agree on a topic with me. The paper should not be a descriptive essay, but rather a creative contribution using economics tools.

READINGS

Note: this list is tentative and subject to changes along the course

1. Introduction

- BFW Chapter 2 (Women and Men: Changing Roles in a Changing Economy) and Chapter 12 (Gender Differences in Other Countries)

2. Marriage and the family

- BFW Chapter 3 (The Family as an Economic Unit) and Chapter 10 (Changing Work Roles and the Family)
- Waite, Linda (1995), Does Marriage Matter?, *Demography*, 32, pp. 483-507.

3. The allocation of time between home production and market production

- BFW Chapter 4 (The Allocation of Time between the Household and the Labor Market)
- Goldin, Claudia (1995), The U-Shaped Female Labor Force Function in Economic Development and Economic History, in P. T. Schultz, ed., *Investment in Women's Human Capital and Economic Development* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press)

4. Gender differences in earnings

- BFW Chapter 5 (Differences in Occupations and Earnings: Overview) and Chapter 6 (Differences in Occupations and Earnings: The Human Capital Model)
- Polachek, Solomon (1995), Human Capital and the Gender Earnings Gap: A Response to Feminist Critiques, in Edith Kuiper and Jolande Sap, "Out of the Margin: Feminist Perspectives on Economics" (Routledge, London).
- Bertrand, Marianne, Claudia Goldin and Lawrence F. Katz (2009), Dynamics of the Gender Gap for Young Professionals in the Financial and Corporate Sectors, Working Paper, University of Chicago
- Women and Work, *The Economist*, December 30, 2009

5. Labour market discrimination

- BFW Chapter 7 (Differences in Occupations and Earnings: The Role of Labor Market Discrimination)
- Bertrand, Marianne, Dolly Chugh and Sendhil Mullainathan (2005), Implicit Discrimination, AEA Papers and Proceedings, Vol. 95(2).
- Black, Sandra (1999), Investigating the Link between Competition and Discrimination, *Monthly Labor Review*, December, pp. 39-43.

6. Preferences, identity and social norms

- Akerlof, George, and Rachel E. Kranton (2000), Economics and Identity, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 115(3), pp. 715-33.
- Gneezy, Uri, Muriel Niederle and Aldo Rustichini (2003), Performance in Competitive Environments: Gender Differences, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 118(3), pp. 1049 – 1074.
- Gneezy, Uri and Aldo Rustichini (2003), Gender and Competition at a Young Age, *American Economic Association Papers and Proceedings*

7. Gender disparity in power and its consequences

- Power, Incentives, and Resources at the Household Level, Chapter 3 of *Engendering Development: Enhancing Development Through Attention to Gender*, World Bank, 2001 (available at <http://www.worldbank.org/gender/prr/ch3.pdf>)
- Lundberg, Shelly and Robert Pollak (1996), Bargaining and the Distribution in Marriage, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 10, Fall, pp. 139-58.
- Alderman, Harold and Elizabeth King (1998), Gender Differences in Parental Investment Education, *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics*, 9, pp. 453-68.
- Dyson, Tim and Mick Moore (1983), On Kinship Structure, Female Autonomy, and Demographic Behavior in India, *Population and Development Review*, 9, pp.35-60

8. Technological progress and the well-being of women

- Goldin, Claudia and Lawrence Katz (2002), The Power of the Pill: Oral Contraceptives and Women's Career and Marriage Decisions, *Journal of Political Economy*, 110, pp 730-70.
- Akerlof, George, Janet Yellen and Michael Katz (1996), An Analysis of Out-of-Wedlock Childbearing in the United States, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 111, pp. 277-317.
- Greenwood, Jeremy, Ananth Seshadri and Mehmet Yorukoglu (2005), Engines of Liberation, *Review of Economic Studies*, 72, pp. 109-33.
- Sen, Amartya (1990), More Than 100 Million Women Are Missing, New York Review of Books (available at <http://ucatlasc.ucsc.edu/gender/Sen100M.html>)
- Almond, Douglas and Lena Edlund (2008), Son-Biased Sex Ratios in the 2000 United States Census, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, Vol. 105(15), pp. 5681-2.

9. Economic policy and the well-being of women

- BFW Chapter 11 (Policies Affecting Paid Work and the Family)
- Hashemi, Syed and Ruth Schuler (1996), Rural Credit Programs and Women's Empowerment in Bangladesh, *World Development*, 24, April, pp. 635-53.
- Goetz, Anne Marie and Rina Sen Gupta (1996), Who Gets the Credit? Gender, Power, and Control Over Loan Use in Rural Credit Programs in Bangladesh, *World Development*, 24
- A Partial Marvel (article from The Economist magazine, July 16th, 2009)
- Leonard, Jonathan S. (1989), Women and Affirmative Action, *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 3(1), pp.61-75.
- Duflo, Esther (2005), Gender Equality and Development, BREAD Policy Paper No. 011

10. Dowry

- Anderson, Siwan (2007), The Economics of Dowry and Brideprice, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 21(4)
- Rao, Vijayendra (1993), The Rising Price of Husbands: A Hedonic Analysis of Dowry Increases in Rural India, *Journal of Political Economy*, 101(4), pp.666-77.
- Edlund, Lena (2000), The Marriage Squeeze Interpretation of Dowry Inflation: A Comment, *Journal of Political Economy*, 108(6), pp.1327-33.
- Botticini, Maristella and Aloysius Siow (2003), Why Dowries? *American Economic Review*, 93(4)
- Anderson, Siwan (2003), Why Dowry Payments Declined with Modernization in Europe and Are Increasing in India, *Journal of Political Economy*, 111 (2), p.269-310.