

Women in the Economy

Fall 2021

Course #: ECON 348; GSF 230; ICS 348

MW 12-1:15pm, Soc Sci 119

Instructor's information

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What is this course about?

You will have the opportunity to conduct team-based, gender-related economic research. This type of research is important because it will enable you to make recommendations for how women's economic status can be improved. You will spend the semester working towards this goal, while learning about different theories that you can use in your analysis. You will learn theories ranging from traditional NeoClassical theories, to Marxist thought, and Feminist theories.

What background knowledge do I need before taking this course?

You will need a basic understanding of traditional economic principles with an emphasis on supply & demand and marginal analysis (microeconomics tools).

What will I learn in this course?

By the end of this course you will be able to:

1. Define basic terminology used in Gender Studies
2. Use basic economic principles to analyze women's status
3. Apply traditional Marxist theory to gender-related situations
4. Differentiate between different Feminist paradigms
5. Appraise and compare the various theories regarding women's economic status
6. Explain trends in U.S. labor markets in terms of occupations & wages based on gender, race, & ethnicity
7. Classify different gender-related, U.S. labor laws
8. Produce a group-based research paper that uses theories learned in this course to investigate a specific, gender inequality and create recommendations for how to bring about social change

What will I do in this course?

You will get to take part in many different types of activities this semester. A major opportunity that you will have is to conduct gender-based economic research. You will work in a group to research a gender-based issue of

your choice. Throughout the semester, you will complete various tasks needed to complete your research. By the end of the semester your group will have a completed research project.

In addition to the research project, you will engage in many other activities. You will read articles, view slides, watch videos, and participate in discussions. You will also have special access to primary sources through Duke University Libraries, so that you can examine historical documents. You will also complete assignments for each unit of material. Assignments will include written responses, reflections, numerical problems, & drawing graphs.

How can I prepare for the class activities to be successful?

You will have numerous opportunities to participate in class activities related to the lessons. In order for the activities to be successful learning experiences, you will need to follow all instructions for that lesson. The instructions may include asking you to complete readings, watch videos, or complete other tasks prior to class.

What required texts, materials, and technologies will I need?

Required text:

The Economics of Women, Men, and Work, Eighth Edition.

F. Blau and A. Winkler. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.

Paperback ISBN: 9780190620851

Ebook version is available at various websites.

Approximate cost range: \$50-\$100

Technologies:

Web access, word processing, powerpoint, etc.

How will my grade be determined?

Your grade will be based on three components:

Activities/Participation	20%
Assignments	40%
Research paper	40%

Research Paper Grading:

Parts:	%	Date
I. Choose broad topic	2%	W 9/1
II. Preliminary lit search	3%	W 9/15
III. Choose specific topic	2%	M 9/27
IV. Historical & social context & in-depth lit review	8%	W 10/6
V. Theory section	10%	M 10/25
VI. Empirical section	7%	W 11/10
VII. Conclusions & specific suggestions for change	5%	W 12/1
Peer evaluation	3%	W 12/1

Course grade Scale:

A+ =97.5 –100	B+ =87.5 - 89.9	C+ =77.5 - 79.9	D+ =67.5 - 69.9
A = 92.5 - 97.4	B = 82.5 - 87.4	C = 72.5 - 77.4	D =60 - 67.4
A - = 90 - 92.4	B - = 80 - 82.4	C - = 70 - 72.4	F = 0 - 59.9

What are the course policies?

Deadlines for assignments

All research project assignments will be submitted as a hard copy during our class session. Homework assignments will be submitted online. If you are eligible for accommodations, please arrange this with me as soon as possible. If you are unable to complete an assignment, you must email/text me within 24 hours of the due date, in order to be considered for a makeup assignment.

Attendance

There is no formal “attendance” required. However, you will be expected to keep up with assignments. You will also be expected to participate in discussions and activities.

Learning communities

For this course, you will get to work within a learning community. (So much fun!)

What is a learning community? A learning community is a cohort of students who work together throughout the duration of the course. The community communicates frequently with one another, exchanges ideas together, assists one another in understanding course material, and generally acts as peer supports for one another. Learning communities will also work together on any group assignments that are given, as well as on the group research paper.

Why a learning community? Working in a learning community has several benefits, including deeper learning through critical thinking by being exposed to other students’ views, having peer support, and creating a sense of community with your classmates.

Learning communities will consist of groups of 3 to 5 students. Students will be grouped mainly by time zone and alphabetically by last name. Groups will be assigned during the first week of class.

Discussion Guidelines

Civility is an essential ingredient for academic discourse. All communications for this course should be conducted constructively, civilly, and respectfully. Differences in beliefs, opinions, and approaches are to be expected. Please bring any communications you believe to be in violation of this class policy to me. Active interaction with peers and your instructor is essential to success in this course, paying particular attention to the following:

- Be respectful of others and their opinions, valuing diversity in backgrounds, abilities, and experiences.
- Challenging the ideas held by others is an integral aspect of critical thinking and the academic process. Please word your responses carefully, and recognize that others are expected to challenge your ideas. A positive atmosphere of healthy debate is encouraged.
- Read any online discussion posts carefully before submitting them.

What is the expected course schedule?

Week of:	Class topic/unit name	Activities & Participation	Assignments due (Research assignments in red)
1 Aug. 23	Unit 1: Course Information Unit 2: Intro to Gender Studies Unit 3: NeoClassical Theory	Kahoots Polls Discussion Groups assigned	Meet your learning community
2 Aug. 30	Unit 4: Marxist Theory: LO 1 - 3	Discussion Kahoots Polls	Assignment – Gender Studies 8/30 Broad Topic – 9/1

3 Sept. 6	Unit 4: Marxist Theory LO 4-5 Unit 5: Feminist Theories Unit 5a: First Wave Feminism	Discussion Kahoot Poll Class cancelled (W 9/8) On-line activities	Assignment – Marx 9/8	
4 Sept. 13	Unit 5a: First Wave Feminism Unit 5b: Second Wave Feminism	Library visit (M 9/13) Discussion	Prelim. Lit Review – 9/15	
5 Sept. 20	Unit 5b: Second Wave Feminism	Library visit (M 9/20) Discussion	Assignment – First Wave 9/20	
6 Sept. 27	Unit 5c: Third Wave Feminism	Library visit (M 9/27) Make zines Discussion	Specific Topic – 9/27 Assignment – Second Wave 9/27	
7 Oct. 4	Fall Break Unit 5c: Third Wave Feminism	Discussion	In-depth Lit. Rev. – 10/6	
8 Oct. 11	Unit 5c: Third Wave Feminist Unit 5d: Fourth Wave Feminism	Create Fourth Wave Infographics		
9 Oct. 18	Unit 6: Labor Market Outcomes Unit 6a: Labor Force Participation Rates		Assignment – Third Wave 10/18	
10 Oct. 25	Unit 6a: Labor Force Participation Rates Unit 6b: Occupational Segregation		Theory Section - 10/25	
11 Nov. 1	Unit 6b: Occupational Segregation Unit 6c: Wage Gap		Assignment – LFPR & Occ Seg 11/3	
12 Nov. 8	Unit 6c: Wage Gap Unit 6d: Labor Market Models		Empirical Section – 11/10	
13 Nov. 15	Unit 6d: Labor Market Models Unit 6e: Labor Market Empirics		Assignment – Models 11/17	
14 Nov. 22	Unit 6e: Labor Market Empirics	Negotiation Role Play		
15 Nov. 29	Unit 7: Labor Market Legislation Peer evaluations for project End-of-semester	Legal cases Poll-Legal verdict Course evaluations Discussion	Assignment - Legislation 11/29 Conclusions & Final Paper 12/1	