

# Econ 452: Economics of Gender and Work

## - Preliminary -

Chancellors Hall Room 121, Tu/Th 5:00-6:20 pm  
Instructor: Professor Emily Moschini

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

**Instructor Contact Information** Email: [egmoschini@wm.edu](mailto:egmoschini@wm.edu) Office Hours: Tu/Th 7-7:45 pm, Location: TBA. I do not have office hours on midterm exam days, during Fall Break, during Thanksgiving Break, or between the end of classes and the final exam.

**Textbook** *The Economics of Women, Men, and Work*, by Francine Blau and Anne Winkler, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition.

**Important Deadlines** Add-drop period ends Sep. 9. Last day to withdraw from the course is Oct. 28.

**Important Dates** Final essay is due at 11:59 pm on December 12. See the calendar later in this syllabus for other important dates. Please verify that, barring illness, you are able to attend all presentations and meet the final essay deadline. You may not unilaterally decide to reschedule your presentation. No extensions will be granted for any assignment.

**Course Description** This course focuses on the analysis of gender differences in economic outcomes, both in the labor market and in the household. You will learn about key observed labor differences across genders, including labor market participation, occupational choices, and wages. Together, we will assess some of the empirical evidence for and against various theories that try to explain those differences. The focus is on the United States, but the international context is also discussed.

**Classroom Behavior** Please: avoid disruptive behavior (e.g., sleeping in class is not permitted). If you need to leave the room temporarily during class, try to minimize the noise you make. During class meetings, unless you have an academic accommodation for taking notes electronically or we are doing a study hall, please leave your cell phones and laptops in your bags.

### GRADES

#### **Graded Components:**

1. 6 reading assignments, and their associated reading activity on Blackboard. These are graded for on-time completion. There are 8 reading assignments throughout the semester that you can use for this portion of your grade; you can miss up to 2 with no penalty. These activities are due right before class meeting (5:00 pm ET) on the day listed in the calendar.
2. 2 presentations
3. A final individual essay due at 11:59 pm on the day of final exam.

**How Grades are Computed:** Table 1 gives contribution to the course grade of each component. Letter grade cutoffs for this course are: A ( $\geq 93\%$ ), A- (90-93), B+ (86-90), B (83-86), etc.

<b>Component</b>	<b>% of grade</b>
Reading Assignment Activities (6 @ 5% each)	30
Presentations (2 @ 20% each)	40
Final Individual Essay	30

### OTHER POLICIES

**Academic Integrity** Academic integrity is at the heart of the university. The *Student Handbook* ([www.wm.edu/studenthandbook](http://www.wm.edu/studenthandbook)) includes your responsibilities as a student. To read the Honor Code, see [www.wm.edu/honor](http://www.wm.edu/honor). A minimum penalty for any breach of academic integrity is a grade of F for the course.

**Artificial Intelligence:** The use or incorporation of any AI-generated content (from ChatGPT, etc.) in assignments is not allowed.

**Academic Accommodations** It is the policy of The College of William & Mary to accommodate students with disabilities and qualifying diagnosed conditions in accordance with federal and state laws. Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a learning, psychiatric, physical or chronic health diagnosis should be referred to Student Accessibility Services (SAS) staff at 757- 221-2509 or at sas@wm.edu. SAS staff will work with you to determine if accommodations are warranted, and if so, to help you obtain an official letter of accommodation. For more information, please see [www.wm.edu/sas](http://www.wm.edu/sas).

**Policy on Absences** As soon as you (the student) know that you will not be able to attend class in person, **you should email me**. Please make every effort not to miss classes for non-health related reasons. Assignments you cannot complete while absent will count towards the allotment of skippable assignments. If you are too sick to present, you must notify me 5 hours beforehand and I will move the grade weight to the final paper.

**COURSE CALENDAR** \*I may change the order of topics/presentation dates.

Format code key: “L” stands for lecture; “RD” stands for student-led reading discussion; “SH” study hall.

Day	Week	Date	Chapter	Format	What to read	Due before class	
Thursday	1	29-Aug	Syllabus + Intro	L			
Tuesday	2	3-Sep	Historical Perspective	L			
Thursday	2	5-Sep	Historical Perspective	L+RD	Reading #1	RA #1	
Tuesday	3	10-Sep	The Family as an Economic Unit: Theory	L			
Thursday	3	12-Sep	The Family as an Economic Unit: Theory	L+RD	Reading #2	RA #2	
Tuesday	4	17-Sep	The Family as an Economic Unit: Evidence	L			
Thursday	4	19-Sep	The Family as an Economic Unit: Evidence	L+RD	Reading #3	RA #3	
Tuesday	5	24-Sep	The Labor Force: Definitions and Trends	L			
Thursday	5	26-Sep	The Labor Supply Decision	L + RD	Reading #4	RA #4	
Tuesday	6	1-Oct	Presentation prep	SH			
Thursday	6	3-Oct	Presentation #1 - assignment on Bb				
Tuesday	7	8-Oct					
Thursday	7	10-Oct	FALL BREAK - NO CLASSES				
Tuesday	8	15-Oct	Gender differences: labor market outcomes	L			
Thursday	8	17-Oct	Gender differences: labor market outcomes	L+RD	Reading #5	RA #5	
Tuesday	9	22-Oct	Gender differences: educational attainment	L			
Thursday	9	24-Oct	Gender differences: educational attainment	L+RD	Reading #6	RA #6	
Tuesday	10	29-Oct	Gender differences in earnings and occupations: evidence	L			
Thursday	10	31-Oct	Gender differences in earnings and occupations: evidence	L+RD	Reading #7	RA #7	
Tuesday	11	5-Nov	ELECTION DAY - NO CLASSES				
Thursday	11	7-Nov	Labor Market Discrimination	L+RD	Reading #8	RA #8	
Tuesday	12	12-Nov	Presentation prep	SH			
Thursday	12	14-Nov	Presentation #2 - assignment on Bb				
Tuesday	13	19-Nov					
Thursday	13	21-Nov	Gender Differences Around the World	L			
Tuesday	14	26-Nov	Remote asynchronous				
Thursday	14	28-Nov	THANKSGIVING BREAK - NO CLASSES				
Tuesday	15	3-Dec	Comparison: Economically Adv. Countries	L			
Thursday	15	5-Dec	Final paper prep	SH			
<b>Dec. 12 : final paper due 11:59 pm - submit via Bb</b>							

## READINGS (subject to change)

1. “The U-Shaped Female Labor Force Function in Economic Development and Economic History”, by Claudia Goldin (1995)
2. “Children as Public Goods”, by Nancy Folbre (1994)
3. “Marriage and Divorce: Changes and their Driving Forces”, by Betsey Stevenson and Justin Wolfers (2007)
4. “Gender Differences in Pay”, by Francine Blau and Lawrence Kahn (2000)
5. “Sexual Harassment and Gender Inequality in the Labor Market”, by Olle Folke and Johanna Rickne (2022)
6. “Five Decades of Remarkable but Slowing Change in U.S. Women's Economic and Social Status and Political Participation” by Martha Bailey and Thomas DiPrete (2016)
7. “Child Penalties Across Countries: Evidence and Explanations”, by Henrik Kleven, Camille Landais, Johanna Posch, Andreas Steinhauer, and Josef Zweimuller (2019)
8. “Gendered Laws and Women in the Workforce” by Marie Hyland, Simeon Djankov, and Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg (2020)