

## Econ 452: Economics of Gender and Work Spring 2024

Chancellors Hall Room 113, Tu/Th 5:00-6:20 pm

Instructor: Professor Emily Moschini

**Instructor Contact Information** Email: [egmoschini@wm.edu](mailto:egmoschini@wm.edu) Office Hours: Tu/Th 7-7:45 pm, via zoom (see Blackboard for link). I do not have office hours on February 29, March 21, during Spring 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 Feb. 2. Last day to withdraw from the course is March 25.

**Important Dates** Final essay is due at 11:59 pm on May 9. 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 otherwise instructed, laptops must be in your bag and cell phones should only be out if we are conducting a survey. Masks are welcome.

### Graded Components:

1. 7 weekly reading assignments, and their associated reading activity on Blackboard. This activity is graded for completion, so if you turn in complete answers on time, you get full credit. It is due right before class meeting (5:00 pm ET) on the day listed in the calendar. You may skip 2 of the 9 posted reading assignments with no penalty.
2. 2 individual presentations. Details for these assignments will be posted in separate documents.
3. A final individual essay due by the day of final exam. Details for this assignment will be posted in a separate document.

**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.

Component	% of Grade
Reading Assignment Activities (7 @ 5%)	35
Presentations (2 @ 20%)	40
Final Essay	25

**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](mailto: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 Outline** \*I may change the order of topics/presentation dates. **ACTIVITY CODE KEY:** “L” stands for lecture; “RD” stands for student-led reading discussion; “SH” study hall (these days are for making progress on your presentation; I will be available to help).

Day	Week	Date	Chapter	Format	Reading Assignment	Reading Activity	
Tu	1	25-Jan	Syllabus + Introduction				
Tu	2	30-Jan	Historical Perspective	L			
Th	2	1-Feb		L+RD	Reading Assignment #1	RA #1	
Tu	3	6-Feb	The Family as an Economic Unit: Theory	L			
Th	3	8-Feb		L+RD	Reading Assignment #2	RA #2	
Tu	4	13-Feb	The Family as an Economic Unit: Evidence	L			
Th	4	15-Feb		L+RD	Reading Assignment #3	RA #3	
Tu	5	20-Feb	The Labor Force: Definitions and Trends	L			
Th	5	22-Feb	The Labor Supply Decision	L + RD	Reading Assignment #4	RA #4	
Tu	6	27-Feb	Presentation prep	SH			
Th	6	29-Feb	NO CLASS: work on Presentation #1				
Tu	7	5-Mar	Presentation #1: see handout posted on Bb for specifics				
Th	7	7-Mar	Presentation #1: see handout posted on Bb for specifics				
Tu	8	12-Mar	SPRING BREAK				
Th	8	14-Mar	SPRING BREAK				
Tu	9	19-Mar	Gender differences: labor market outcomes	L			
Th	9	21-Mar		L+RD	Reading Assignment #5	RA #5	
Tu	10	26-Mar	Gender differences: educational attainment	L			
Th	10	28-Mar		L+RD	Reading Assignment #6	RA #6	
Tu	11	2-Apr	Other sources of gender differences in earnings and occupations: evidence	L			
Th	11	4-Apr		L+RD	Reading Assignment #7	RA #7	
Tu	12	9-Apr	Labor Market Discrimination	L			
Th	12	11-Apr	Gender Differences Around the World	L+RD	Reading Assignment #8	RA #8	
Tu	13	16-Apr	Comparison: Economically Adv. Countries	L			
Th	13	18-Apr	Presentation prep	SH			
Tu	14	23-Apr	Presentation #2: see handout posted on Bb for specifics				
Th	14	25-Apr	Presentation #2: see handout posted on Bb for specifics				
Tu	15	30-Apr	Short lecture - TBA	L+RD	Reading Assignment #9	RA #9	
Th	15	2-May	Final paper prep	SH			
9-May			Final paper due at 11:59 pm – submit via Bb, see handout on Bb for specifics				

## Readings

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. “Changes in Labor Force Participation in the United States”, by Chinhui Juhn and Simon Potter (2006)
5. “Gender Differences in Pay”, by Francine Blau and Lawrence Kahn (2000)
6. “The Homecoming of American College Women: The Reversal of the College Gender Gap” by Claudia Goldin, Lawrence Katz, and Ilyana Kuziemko
7. “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)
8. “Gendered Laws and Women in the Workforce” by Marie Hyland, Simeon Djankov, and Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg (2020)
9. “Sexual Harassment and Gender Inequality in the Labor Market”, by Olle Folke and Johanna Rickne (2022)