

# EC 417 (40866) & WS 417 (44616): Women in the Economy Syllabus Winter 2024

Portland State is located in the traditional homelands of the Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Watlala Bands of Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla, and many other indigenous nations who made their homes along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. By recognizing these communities, we honor their legacies, their lives, and their descendants.

**Instructor:** Dr. Sarah Tinkler ([tinkler@pdx.edu](mailto:tinkler@pdx.edu))

**Classes:** No assigned class times

**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday from 12-1p on. Zoom (link on Canvas); Wednesdays from 12-2p in URBN 450E; and on Zoom by appointment (email [tinkler@pdx.edu](mailto:tinkler@pdx.edu) to schedule).

## Course description

This class takes an economic approach to the lives of women. Topics include labor markets, education, family life, nonmarket work, and government policy.

Recommended prerequisite: Prior experience with economics, or willingness to learn.

## Textbook (required)

The Economics of Women, Men and Work (8<sup>th</sup> Edition) by Blau and Winkler.

## Course requirements

- 3 take-home exams (75 points total)
- 5 discussion boards (25 points total)

## Course Calendar

(See Canvas for additional readings)

**Week 1 (January 8):** Text chapters 1 and 2

*Deadlines: None. Run your paper idea by me if ready.*

Topics:

- Introduction to economic modeling, its uses and limitations
- Historical perspectives on the changing roles of women and men

**Week 2 (January 15):** Text chapters 3 and 4

**PSU Closed on January 15<sup>th</sup> in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday**

Topics:

- Families as economic units
- The sociology of families

*Deadline: Exam 1 on 1/29 at 11:30p.m.*

**Week 3 (January 22nd):** Text chapters 5 and 6

Topics:

- The labor force
- The economic model of labor supply

*Deadline: Paper title and proposal, January 24 at 11:30 p.m.*

**Week 4 (January 24):** Text chapters 7 and 8

*Deadline: Week 4 Discussion board, January 31 at 11:30 p.m.*

Topics:

- Gender differences in labor markets
- Education and human capital
- Career planning and researching alternative career paths

**Week 5 (January 31):** Text chapters 9 and 10

*Deadline: Exam 1, February 7 at 11:30 p.m.*

Topics:

- Other supply side sources of differences in labor market outcomes
- Negotiation and wage setting.
- Practical negotiation skills

**Week 6 (February 7):** Text chapter 11

*Deadline: Week 6 Discussion board, February 14 at 11:30 p.m.*

Topic:

- Theoretical models of labor market discrimination

**Week 7 (February 14):** Text chapter 12

*Deadline: Annotated bibliography, February 21 at 11:30 p.m.*

Topics:

- Discrimination as a source of unequal labor market outcomes
- US government policies to combat discrimination

**Week 8 (February 21):** Text chapters 13 and 14

*Deadlines: Week 8 Discussion board 02/28 at 11:30 p.m. Resubmit annotated bibliography without penalty (if necessary).*

Topic:

- Family formation and labor market outcomes

**Week 9 (February 28):** Text chapters 15 and 16

*Deadline: Exam 2, March 7 at 11:30 p.m.*

Topics:

- Role of government in moderating the distributional effects of markets.
- “Work-Life” balance

**Week 10 (March 7):** Text chapters 17 and 18

*Deadline: Week 10 Discussion board 03/14 at 11:30 p.m.*

Topic:

- Status of women around the world

**Finals Week (March 14)**

*Deadline: Term paper **due 03/17** at 11:30 p.m.*

## **Policies**

### *Affirmative Action*

Portland State University supports equal opportunity for all, regardless of age, color, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion or creed, sex or gender, sexual or gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other basis in law.

### *Disability Resources at PSU*

Students with accommodations approved through the Disability Resource Center are responsible for contacting the faculty member prior to, or during, the first week of term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval should contact the DRC immediately.

### *Academic Honesty*

Academic honesty is expected and required of students enrolled in this course. Suspected academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Students.