

EC 417/WS 417: Women in the Economy, Winter 2021 Syllabus

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)
Class Meetings: Tuesday and Thursday, 10-11:50 on Zoom
Office Hours: Zoom, by appointment (send email to above address)

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: Prior experience with economics, or willingness to learn.

Textbook (required)

The Economics of Women, Men and Work (8th Edition) by Blau and Winkler

Course requirements

2 Exams (30 points total)

- 3 short essay answers per exam (1-2 pages of text per question).
- References essential, and do not count towards page limit.

5 Discussion Boards (25 points total)

Make at least one substantive comment, and respond in a substantive way to another participant (no late posts accepted).

Paper (45 points total. See D2L for details.)

Select a topic about women. You will not be able to score well on the term paper unless you earn points on the interim steps of submitting a title, 1-paragraph proposal, and annotated bibliography by the deadlines. Figures, tables, cover pages, bibliography etc. do not count towards the page limit.

Course Calendar (Consult D2L for a complete list of readings)

Week 1 (January 4): Text chapters 1 and 2

Deadline:

- 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 11): Text chapters 3 and 4

Deadline:

- Week 2 Discussion Board, 01/18 at 11:30 p. m.
- Run your paper idea by me, if ready.

Topics:

- Families as economic units
- The sociology of families

Week 3 (January 18): Text chapters 5 and 6

Deadline:

- Paper title and proposal, 01/25 at 11:30 p.m.

Topics:

- The labor force
- The economic model of labor supply (participation and hours worked)

Week 4 (January 25): Text chapters 7 and 8

Deadline:

- Week 4 Discussion Board, 02/01 at 11:30 p.m.

Topics:

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

Week 5 (February 1): Text chapters 9 and 10

Deadline:

- Exam 1, 02/08 at 11:30 p.m.

Topics:

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

Week 6 (February 8): Text chapter 11

Deadlines:

- Week 6 Discussion Board, 02/15 at 11:30 p.m.

Topic:

- Theoretical models of labor market discrimination

Week 7 (February 15): Text chapter 12

Deadline:

- Annotated bibliography, 02/22 at 11:30 p.m.

Topics:

- Empirical evidence for discrimination as source of unequal labor market outcomes
- US government policies to combat discrimination

Week 8 (February 22): Text chapters 13 and 14

Deadlines:

- Week 8 Discussion Board, 03/01 at 11:30 p. m.
- Resubmit annotated bibliography without penalty (if necessary).

Topic:

- Family formation and labor market outcomes

Week 9 (March 1): Text chapters 15 and 16

Deadline:

- Exam 2, 03/08 at 11:30 p.m.

Topics:

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

Week 10 (March 8): Text chapters 17 and 18

Deadlines:

- Week 10 Discussion Board, 03/15 at 11:30 p.m.

Topic:

- Status of women around the world

Finals Week (March 15)

Deadline: Term paper due 03/19 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 in this course will be referred to the Dean of Students.