

Course Outline

Department of Economics  
School of Business and Economics

ECON 3610-3  
The Economics of Gender (3,0,0)

**Calendar Description**

Students use economic theory and analysis in an attempt to explain why gender differences lead to different outcomes in education, career choices, family roles, and earnings. A comparison is made of the economic status of women relative to men throughout the world, with special emphasis on similarities and differences between Canada and other economically advanced nations. Topics include marriage and family; the economics of fertility; women at work; women's earnings, occupation, and education; the gender gap in earnings; women's employment and earnings; family policy; and women in developing countries.

**Educational Objectives/Outcomes**

After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Discuss the many ways gender matters in the economy.
2. Apply economic models to explain the choices of women in the household and in their labor market activities, as well as their educational and vocational choices.
3. Demonstrate competence in analyzing issues, themes and debates concerning women's position in the economy.
4. Evaluate policies pursued by government including policies to combat discrimination, family leave policies, and child support policies.

**Prerequisites**

ECON 1900

**Co-requisites**

**Texts/Materials**

Hoffman and Averett, *Women and the Economy*, Addison Wesley, 2nd Edition, 2010.

**Student Evaluation**

Participation	0-20%
Assignments/quizzes	0-20%
Project/term paper	0--25%
Midterm(s)	30-60%
Final exam	30-50%

## Course Topics

1. Introduction
  - Microeconomics - basic approach
  - Microeconomics- basic tools and concepts
  - Empirical methods in economics: an introduction
2. Marriage and the Family- An Economic Approach
  - Marriage and family structure- an overview
  - Economics of marriage
  - Production, specialization, and the gains to marriage
  - Other economics approaches to the benefits of marriage
  - A supply and demand model of marriage
  - Changes in supply and demand: What happens to the marriage market?
3. Marriage and the Family- Economic Issues and Applications
  - Marriage and the earnings of men
  - Divorce and consequences
4. The Economics of Fertility
  - Fertility facts and trends in Canada
  - Fertility - modern economic approach
  - Choosing - economics of fertility
  - New directions in the economics and fertility
5. Women at Work
  - Women's labor force participation
  - Economic model of women's labor force participation
  - Explaining the increase in women's labor force participation
  - Effect of changes in wages, income, and household productivity
6. Women's Earnings, Occupation, and Education
  - Gender gap in earnings
  - Occupational segregation
  - Gender differences in education
  - Overview of wage determination
7. The Gender Gap in Earnings: Explanations
  - Human capital - supply of skills to the labor market

- Gender differences in human capital
  - Labor market discrimination and women’s earnings
  - Alternative explanations
8. Women’s Employment and Earnings: Policy
- Government programs to combat discrimination
  - Comparable worth: alternative approach
9. Family Policy
- Changes in the family over time
  - Family leave policies
  - Child Care
  - Effects of dual-earner married couple families on child well-being
10. Women in Developing Countries
- Marriage
  - Fertility
  - Women in the work force
  - Women’s earnings

**Methods for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition**

As per TRU policy.

**Attendance Requirements – Include if different from TRU Policy**

As per TRU policy.

**Special Course Activities – Optional**

**Use of Technology – Optional**