Course Description

As Julie Nelson points out, “women are not the only sexed people in the world. Men are also sexed; it is only because maleness has often been confused with universality that the implications of male sexual identity have been pushed into the background.” The purpose of this class is to explore the ramifications of this statement as it is manifested in the study of economics and economic activity within American society and the world. To that end, we will critically examine generally accepted economic dictates and re-evaluate their validity with respect to gender and a feminist framework. At the conclusion of this course, you should be able to evaluate an economic issue and judge its equity for both sexes.

Prerequisite

ECON 1B

Required Text


I encourage you to explore online used textbook sellers like [www.half.com](http://www.half.com) and [www.directtextbook.com](http://www.directtextbook.com). To insure you get the right book, search by the ISBN number.

Suggested Texts


Jagger/Rothenberg. *Feminist Frameworks: Alternative Theoretical Accounts of the Relations between Men and Women*

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Responses</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>(or 10% each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>(or 20% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
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The actual letter grade you earn in this course will be based on a grading scale to be determined after the final exam. This scale may or may not resemble the 10-point scale to which you may be accustomed (e.g., 90-100% is some sort of A, 80-89% is some sort of B, etc) because I reserve the right to curve. I will be happy to provide feedback over the semester on how to interpret your raw homework and exam scores so that you know how you are progressing in the course.

NOTE ON THE CONTENT OF THIS COURSE SYLLABUS

I view the information in this syllabus as a contract between my students and myself. I try to be very clear about my expectations and policies so that everyone knows the basic rules and we all go home happy every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and, ultimately, at the end of the semester. Please read the following carefully.

Attendance

Attendance is left up to your discretion, although it should be obvious that spending 3 hours with me each week will have a positive effect on how much you learn and your final grade. I do not take roll, but I am observant and will be able to ascertain who is there on a regular basis (and who is not). Students are expected to have completed all assigned reading prior to coming to class. I will expect you to be able to answer questions regarding the reading and participate in class discussions.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism will NOT be tolerated. All direct and indirect quotations from other sources should be properly acknowledged. And yes, I have failed graduate students who plagiarized. Don’t cheat. Ever. Under any circumstances. My job is to teach you economics and then give you a grade that accurately reflects your knowledge of the subject. If you cheat, you force me to assume that you have cheated because you know nothing and your grade will reflect that assumption. If you are dumb enough to plagiarize, the result will NOT be pretty.

Writing Assignments

You will be required to write 5 reader-responses in which you briefly analyze a current gender economic policy issue, by using the tools we have discussed in this class. Papers must be 2 pages in maximum length (typed, double-spaced, proofread, spell-checked). More information on these assignments will be distributed later in the semester.

Exams

You may regard the exam dates listed below as carved in stone. Put them in your calendar immediately because there are no make-up exams and very few acceptable excuses for missing one. If you find that you are unable to take an exam on its scheduled date, please make arrangements with me immediately. You may take the mid-term before the scheduled time, but NOT after.
Acceptable excuses include a death in the family, a University-sponsored event or excursion, or a serious illness documented by a doctor. You are responsible for bringing a pencil/pen and a non-cell-phone calculator to all exams. Exams are closed-book, closed-note, and closed-friend/neighbor.

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Response #1</td>
<td>Friday, February 6, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Response #2</td>
<td>Friday, March 6, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>Friday, March 20, 2009 (in class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Response #3</td>
<td>Friday, March 27, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Response #4</td>
<td>Friday, April 17, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Response #5</td>
<td>Friday, May 1, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Wednesday, May 20, 2009 10:15am-12:15pm</td>
</tr>
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ADDITIONAL REQUESTS

- I know about the traffic/parking nightmares on campus and am sympathetic, but I do request that you **be on time** if you choose to attend. If you arrive late, please come in quietly, settle quickly, and at least muster an apologetic expression for me. It is your responsibility to get any material that you miss. I will **not** provide lecture notes under any circumstances, so I recommend that you find a study-buddy or two in class.

- Please make sure that all cell phones and pagers are shut off during lecture. At a minimum, put these devices in silent mode and refrain from answering calls/pages/text messages during class.

- If you have a physical or learning disability that requires accommodation, please let me know as soon as possible and contact Services to Students with Disabilities at (916) 278-6955 to get the proper documentation well in advance of the first exam. Please note that legally, I cannot provide you accommodation without this documentation.

- You must keep up with the reading and seek help when you don’t understand something. Utilize class time, my office hours, and email to get your questions answered. If I’m in my office, I’ll make time for you if at all possible, so please **BE PROACTIVE** and stop by.

- I am interested in your feedback and would prefer **not** to rely on the generic and basically useless evaluation questions that I am only able to read after the semester is already over. I am happy to listen to suggestions and criticisms in person or via email, but if you feel uncomfortable telling me what you really think, I’ve set up an anonymous feedback form on my website at [www.csus.edu/indiv/c/chalmersk/Links%20Teaching.html](http://www.csus.edu/indiv/c/chalmersk/Links%20Teaching.html). Yes, it’s really anonymous.
Tentative Course Outline and Readings:

January:

- Introduction to Class, Syllabus, Economics
- Intro to Feminism, Labor Markets
- BFW — Ch 1 (including appendix)

February:

- Changing Roles of Men and Women
  - BFW — Ch 2 (2/6 Reader-Response #1 Due)
- Family as an Economic Unit
  - BFW — Ch 3
- Allocation of Time between the Household and Labor Market
  - BFW — Ch 4
- News from the Key Western Front: Serving in Florida
  - Ehrenreich, pp 1-50
- Difference in Earnings: Overview
  - BFW — Ch 5

March:

- Difference in Earnings: The Human Capital Model
  - BFW — Ch 6 (3/6 Reader-Response #2 Due)
- Difference in Earnings: The Human Capital Model (continued)
  - BFW — Ch 6
- Martha Stewart in Maine: Lobsters and Clorox
  - Ehrenreich, pp 51-120
- The Downside of Human Capital Investment
  - Hewlett, pp 1-84 (3/27 Reader-Response #3 Due)
- Bumping Against the Glass Ceiling
  - Hewlett, pp 85-120
- Difference in Earnings: The Role of Labor Market Discrimination
  - BFW — Ch 7

April:

- Proposals to Have Your Cake and Eat It, Too
  - Hewlett, pp 253-308, BFW, pp 360-381
- Recent Developments in the Labor Market
  - BFW — Ch 8 (4/17 Reader-Response #4 Due)
- Jimmy Hoffa and Sam Walton
  - Ehrenreich, pp 121-191
- The View from the Bottom
  - Ehrenreich, pp 193-221
- Thanksgiving Break

May:

- Changing Work Roles and the Family
  - BFW — Ch 9
- Gender Difference in Other Countries
  - BFW — Ch 11 (5/1 Reader-Response #5 Due)
- Gender Difference in Other Countries (continued)
  - BFW — Ch 11