

ECONOMICS 3380 Gender and Ethnicity in Economics

COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2009

Instructor: Professor Frances Woolley  
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Class schedule: Friday 8:35-11:25, room TBA  
Office hours: Thursday 1:00 to 2:00, Friday 1:00 to 2:00  
Web-site: available on WebCT  
TA: TBA

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**Course description:** The aim of the course is (a) to introduce students to the many ways gender and ethnicity matter in the economy and (b) to develop students' ability to understand, write about and analyze economic policy issues. Topics include women's and men's paid work and earnings; the effect of culture and religion on economic outcomes; discrimination; unpaid work and the value of household production; marriage and families; the causes and consequences of 'missing women' in China, India and other parts of Asia; issues in economic development.

Prerequisites: ECON 1000 or FYSM 1003.

Precludes additional credit for ECON 3100 (no longer offered) and ECON 3810 (no longer offered).

**Text** – Joyce Jacobsen, *The Economics of Gender, Third Edition* Blackwell, ISBN 978-1-4051-6182-4. This text is required.

Evaluation:

Component	Date	Weight
Assignment 1	THURSDAY Oct 5	10%
Midterm	October 30 <sup>th</sup>	35%
Assignment 2	November 27 <sup>th</sup>	10%
Final	As scheduled	45%

**Academic Integrity** – Students are encouraged to work together on assignments but please write up assignments on your own and in your own words. Please be aware that plagiarism is a serious offense and one that should be recognized and avoided.

Examples of academic integrity violations include:

- cut-and-pasting material from a website into your assignment and not identifying the quote with quotation marks and giving the reference
- submitting an assignment that word-for-word or almost word-for-word the same as someone else's

- using unauthorized materials, e.g. a dictionary or a cell-phone, in the examination

For further information regarding this subject, please see the Economics website. If I have any reason to suspect that a student has committed an instructional offense as described in section 14.0 of the undergraduate calendar, I will immediately report the incident to the Chair of the Department.

**A significant number of people have failed this course because they have been found guilty of violating Carleton's academic integrity policy.**

**Examinations** – Both the midterm exam and the final exam will be three hour exams containing a mixture of multiple choice, short answer/essay questions and problems. **Please bring pencils, pens, a ruler, a non-programmable calculator, your student ID and nothing else** to the midterm exam. The final exam is cumulative. Failure to write the final examination will result in a grade of ABS. In order to write a deferred final exam students must contact the Registrar's Office. N.B. Deferred finals, which must be applied for at the Registrar's Office, are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Assignments** – the first assignment will consist of questions similar to the long answer questions that you will find on the midterm and final exams, as well as some additional questions designed to deepen your understanding of the readings. The second assignment may involve some independent research or thinking, for example, an evaluation of a newspaper or magazine article, or collection and analysis of information about gender and ethnicity in economics.

**Bad midterm forgiveness policy** – grades will be awarded according to the formula

$$\text{Max } (0.10 \cdot A1 + 0.35M + 0.10A3 + 0.45F; 0.10A1 + 0.10A2 + 0.80F)$$

In other words, if your final exam score is better than your overall score, you will receive the final exam score. Students who miss the midterm exam for any reason will automatically receive an 80% final.

**Late Assignments** – Assignments may be submitted in class or put in the economics department drop-box in room C876 Loeb **up to 3:30 p.m.** on the day that the assignment is due. **Assignments slipped under my door will be considered late.** Assignments handed in late will be subject to a penalty of 15 percentage points if they are received any time after the due date up until Monday morning, 20 percentage points if they are received on Tuesday morning, and an additional 10 percentage points for every 48 hours or part thereof. E.g. an assignment handed in sometime after 3:30 p.m. on Friday with an unadjusted score of 78 percent would receive a grade of 78-15 or 63 percent.

**Deferred Finals** - Deferred finals, which must be applied for at the RO, are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course. A student will be considered in good standing if he/she has an average of above 50 percent on the two assignments.

**Grade adjustments** – Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**Services available to students** – students having difficulties with this course, especially with the written work, are encouraged to take advantage of the Writing Tutorial Service(229PA), and the Student Academic Success Centre (SASC, 302 Tory).

**Requests for Academic Accommodations**

For Religious Obligations	To be worked out on individual basis with instructor. Consult Equity Services Website or an Equity Advisor (ext. 5622) for Policy and list of Holy Days ( <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/equity">www.carleton.ca/equity</a> )
For Pregnancy	Contact Equity Services (ext. 5622) to obtain letters of accommodations

### For Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations are required to contact a co-ordinator at the Paul Menton Centre to complete the necessary letters of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first class or ITV test. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangements.

Readings: All readings are required.

Date

- Sept 11      **Introduction and overview.** Jacobsen, Chapter 1 including Appendix. “Women in Canada, A Gender-Based Statistical Report” available on-line at <http://www.statcan.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=89-503-X> Chapters 5 and 6 (pages 105-118, 135-147 with the .pdf page numbers, pages 103-116, 133-145 in the hard copy page numbers. Read as much as you can – this is also on the reading list for Sept 25th so you can read it then.)
- Sept 18      **Households** Jacobsen, chapter 3.
- Sept 25      **Labour Force Participation** Jacobsen chapters 4 and 5. Women in Canada, <http://www.statcan.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=89-503-X>, chapter 5, chapter 10 p. 249 to end of chapter, chapter 9 p. 223 to end of chapter. Skip the tables at the end of each chapter. Start reading articles from Canadian Social Trends: Blacks in Canada, South Asians in Canada, Chinese Canadians. All articles available on WebCT
- Oct 2      **Occupational segregation, Experiences of immigrant and visible minority Canadians** Jacobsen, chapter 6. Akerlof and Kranton, “The Economics of Identity” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2000, up to p. 718, pp. 721-727, 732-737, 745-749. Articles from Canadian Social Trends: Blacks in Canada, South Asians in Canada, Chinese Canadians. All articles available on WebCT.
- Oct 16      **Earnings differences I:** Human capital and compensating wage differentials Jacobson, chapters 7 and 8.
- Oct 23      **Earnings differences II: Discrimination and policy responses.** Jacobsen, chapter 9 comparable worth “application”, 296-314. Philip Oreopoulos “Why Do Skilled Immigrants Struggle In the Labor Market? A Field Experiment with Six Thousand Resumes, NBER Working Paper 15036 Available on Webct. Cristina Echevarria and Mobinul Huq “Redesigning Employment Equity in Canada”

Canadian Public Policy, volume 27(1), 2001. Available at [economics.ca/cpp](http://economics.ca/cpp) “The New Affirmative Action”  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/30/magazine/30affirmative-t.html> (this is free, but you might have to take a couple of minutes to register to get the full text of the article).

Oct 30

MIDTERM

Nov 6

**Marriage markets; missing women.** . David D Friedman, Price Theory, chapter 15, available at [http://www.daviddfriedman.com/Academic/Price\\_Theory/PThy\\_Chapter\\_21/PTby\\_Chap\\_21.html](http://www.daviddfriedman.com/Academic/Price_Theory/PThy_Chapter_21/PTby_Chap_21.html). “A Dangerous Surplus of Sons?”  
<http://chronicle.com/weekly/v50/i34/34a01401.htm>, “Abortions in India Spurred by Sex Test Skew the Ratio Against Girls”  
<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9B07E1D61130F931A15757C0A9679C8B63&scp=17&sq=%22missing+women%22&st=nyt> Summary at [http://ucatlans.ucsc.edu/gender/gender\\_mortality.php](http://ucatlans.ucsc.edu/gender/gender_mortality.php) plus the papers by Amartya Sen linked to that web page;

*Note: readings for the last four weeks may change depending upon the availability of a guest lecturer.*

Nov 13

**Empowerment.** Kabeer, “Gender equality and women’s empowerment” in *Gender and Development*, 2005. Available on WebCT. United Nations Human Development Index – go to <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/data/> and explore the Human Development World maps (and the links to the definitions of the measures), the HDI interactive calculator, disparities between HDI and GDP, and anything else that interests you.

Nov 20

**Religion and Culture.** Jensen and Oster, “The power of TV: cable television and women’s status in India” forthcoming, QJE (you can skip the technical bits). McCleary and Barro “Religion and Economy” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 2006. Both articles posted on WebCT.

Nov 27

**Microcredit** <http://www.grameen-info.org/bank/WhatisMicrocredit.htm>, short video on microcredit  
[http://www.grameenfoundation.org/resource\\_center/video\\_breaking\\_through/Conflicts\\_Over\\_Credit:\\_Re-evaluating\\_the\\_Empowerment\\_Potential\\_of\\_Loans\\_to\\_Women\\_in\\_Rural\\_Bangladesh\\_N\\_Kabeer\\_-\\_World\\_Development,\\_2001](http://www.grameenfoundation.org/resource_center/video_breaking_through/Conflicts_Over_Credit:_Re-evaluating_the_Empowerment_Potential_of_Loans_to_Women_in_Rural_Bangladesh_N_Kabeer_-_World_Development,_2001)  
<http://www.cours.ecn.ulaval.ca/cours/ECN-60214/Women-Kabeer.pdf>

Dec 4

**Labour Standards** Child Labor: Cause, Consequence, and Cure, with Remarks on International Labor Standards K Basu - *Journal of Economic Literature*, 1999  
[http://www.uni-konstanz.de/FuF/wiwi/vwl/HPGrieben/download/basu\\_child\\_labor\\_JEL\\_1999.pdf](http://www.uni-konstanz.de/FuF/wiwi/vwl/HPGrieben/download/basu_child_labor_JEL_1999.pdf)