

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics
Econ 366 Gender and Economics
Fall 2021
Wednesdays 2:30-3:50pm in B1-271

Instructor

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Webex Office Hours: Mondays, 1pm-3pm (link posted on LEARN),
Wednesdays, 4pm-5pm (link posted on LEARN)

This is a **blended course** with a **required in-person** component taking place on **Wednesdays 2:30pm-3:50pm in classroom B1 271**. The in-person component is required **for class discussions, the midterm test and student presentations**.

Note: in the event of a Fall campus closure related to COVID-19, the in-person part of the course will be delivered synchronously through Webex on Wednesdays, 2:30pm-3:50pm. The midterm test will be a take home test. End of term student presentations will happen remotely through Webex.

Course Description

This course explores historical trends and economic theories and models to investigate the development of gender norms and changes in those norms across time. It questions whether and how physiological differences, economic models (e.g., comparative advantage, specialization, or discrimination) and social constructs can explain gender differences in roles within the family, education, work, pay, and poverty and changes in the differences across time. Social policies designed to diminish gender differences will be scrutinized. Some topics/questions that may be addressed include the rise in labour force participation of women post World War II; occupational and wage differences between men and women and changing educational attainment. The facts and explanations provided will provide context to the discussion of gender and race discrimination in the labour market.

Recommended Text

- The Economics of Women, Men and Work, 7th Edition, by Blau, Ferber and Winkler (BFW)

An electronic version of a previous edition of the textbook is on reserve at the Dana Porter Library. A used version of the 7th edition can also be bought on Amazon.ca for \$22.26 [here](#). Electronic versions of key chapters of the textbook can be accessed on the course reserve info [here](#).

Readings Available on LEARN

- Notes and Complementary readings will be posted on LEARN on an ongoing basis

Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Weekly Email questions	Weekly starting Sept 13 th	40
First assignment	October 8 th	15
Midterm Test	October 27 th in class	15
Second assignment in-class presentation	Nov 24-Dec 1	15
Second assignment report	December 9 th	15
Total		100%

Course Topics and Schedule

*The topics can be found in Chapters 1-12 of the textbook by Blau et al.

Week	Topics*
Sept 8	Labour market definitions and trends
Sept 15	Labour supply model: labour market participation
Sept 22	Labour supply model: income and substitution effects
Sept 29	Labour supply evidence and government policy
Oct 6	Occupational choice and earnings: evidence
Oct 20	The human capital model
Oct 27	Midterm test
Nov 3	Labour market discrimination: definition, measurement
Nov 10	Labour market discrimination models
Nov 17	Attitude, behaviour and cultural norms
Nov 24 & Dec 1	Second assignment presentations
Dec 9	Second assignment report due

Weekly Assignments

Students will be asked to read the notes posted in advance of the topic assigned each week and email questions on Mondays starting September 13. Details on the assignment are provided in a separate document posted on LEARN.

First Assignment

Students will be asked to prepare a 5 page (minimum) document which motivates a problem and question involving a gender issue and put it in the current context of the COVID-19 health crisis. Details on the assignment are provided in a separate document posted on LEARN. The due date for this assignment is October 8.

Midterm Test

Students will be tested on the key concepts and facts presented so far through short answer questions. A sample of questions will be provided in advance. The test will be on Wednesday October 27th during class time.

Second Assignment Presentation

The student will present the main findings of their final report during the in-person classes of November 24 and December 1st. Details on the presentation will be provided in a separate document posted on LEARN.

Second Assignment Report

Students will be asked to write a 15 page (minimum) report describing the gender similarities and differences of 10 social and economic outcomes for a country of their choice (excluding Canada and the US). Details on the assignment are provided in a separate document posted on LEARN.

Late Work

Unsubmitted weekly assignments will receive a 0; they will count for half the mark if submitted late. Late submission of the final assignments are subject to a 10% point daily penalty submitted late. Unsubmitted final reports will receive a 0.

Missed Test

A student who is ill and misses the term test needs to provide appropriate medical documentation (including if it applies, a proof of covid test results) to **the instructor within 48 hours of the missed test**. Testing locations can be found here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-test-and-testing-location-information>. If the appropriate documentation has been submitted on time, the weight of the term test will be shifted to the student's presentation and report (10% on presentation, 5% on written report).

Missing class due to self-isolation

If a student becomes ill due to covid, the student needs to inform the instructor and email the positive test results. The student is encouraged to use the virtual office hours for any questions on the posted material during the 2 weeks of required self-isolation. If the self-isolation period overlaps with the midterm day, the student missing the test day will have the weight of the midterm shifted following the missed test policy above. If the self-isolation period overlaps with the presentation day, the student will present remotely.

Grading Policy

Grades will be entered on LEARN. Students who would like their test or assignments regraded need to ask the instructor. The regrading will apply to the entire material and may not automatically result in a higher grade than before.

Institutional-required statements for undergraduate course outlines approved by Senate Undergraduate Council, April 14, 2009

Academic Integrity

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage](#) and the [Arts Academic Integrity webpage](#) for more information.

Discipline

A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Grievance

A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. [Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Appeals

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](#).

Note for Students with Disabilities

The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (NH 1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

If Using Turnitin in your Course

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. Students will be given an option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin®. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

Note: students must be given a reasonable option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin®. See [guidelines for instructors](#) for more information.

Faculty of Arts-required statements for undergraduate course outlines

Cross-listed Course (if applicable)

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

On Campus

- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 ext 32655
- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

Off campus, 24/7

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS [website](#)
Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)
Download the [WatSafe](#) app to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.