

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA – DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
ECON 4070: GENDER AND ECONOMICS

Spring 2022

Professor Amalia Miller

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Office Hours: M 1-2pm, and by appointment, Monroe 239

Class meetings: MW 2 – 3:15pm, Monroe Hall 114

UVaCollab Page: 22Sp Gender Economics

Formal class meetings will primarily take place in person, but we will on occasion meet online to accommodate public health circumstances or other special considerations using Zoom. I will use the class Collab site and email list to send important messages about the class.

Course Description

Over the past century, there has been a dramatic transformation in women's economic lives. Women are acquiring more education, marrying later, having fewer children and spending a greater fraction of their adult lives in the paid labor force. While women are catching up to men in many economic outcomes, persistent differences remain, particularly in occupational distributions and earnings. This course will examine economic theories and empirical evidence related to the changing role of gender in the economy, with a focus on family formation (marriage and children), work, and income. Research methods and public policy applications will be emphasized.

Some of the theories and/or results discussed in class may be controversial, and you are expected to bring an open mind to the material and a respectful attitude to group discussions.

In addition to the substantive knowledge that you will gain from this class, you will also develop your skills in applying economic models and econometric methods to different topics and questions. You will have several opportunities to hone your written and oral communication skills, including giving and receiving constructive peer feedback.

Prerequisites

Students are expected to have knowledge of intermediate microeconomic theory at the level of ECON 3010 or 3110 and econometrics at the level of ECON 3720 or 4720.

Textbook

Women and the Economy: Family, Work and Pay, 4th Edition by Saul D. Hoffman and Susan L. Averett. This book is available to you through the Inclusive Access program with the UVA Bookstore. Please read the message below from the bookstore.

All students enrolled in this class will have immediate access to the digital version of the textbook through UVA Collab for the first 2 weeks of class—for free. **After February 2**, your student account will be charged **\$57.78**.

Students will receive an email from UVA Inclusive Access with detailed information about accessing the materials, costs, and opting out. This program is optional for students, but you must actively opt out by the deadline to not be charged. If you opt out, you will lose access to the materials through UVA Collab and will be responsible for obtaining access through another source. Due to the special pricing, no refunds can be processed after the opt-out window.

The Inclusive Access program aims to offer all students accessibility and affordability. If you have questions regarding the program, please email UVAInclusiveAccess@virginia.edu.

Other required readings will be posted to the course Collab page.

Assessment

Your final grade will be based on:

Problem Sets	40%
Paper Questions	10%
Research writing	20%
Research presentations	20%
Attendance and participation	10%

Homework Assignments

Problem Sets: Over the course of the semester, I will assign 4 problem sets based on material covered in class. These can be completed in small groups of up to 4 students. Students are free to form their own groups and can work with different students on different assignments or work alone. If you work in a group, submit a single assignment for the group with all your names.

Paper Questions: I will also assign 4 scholarly research papers for you to read in advance and that we will discuss in class. The entire class will read all the papers, but you will take turns being responsible for leading discussion on 2 of them. In advance of each paper discussion class meeting, I will assign some students to type up a brief (max 1 page) summary of the paper and compile a list of 3 questions about the paper for class discussion. This is individual work.

Research Writing and Presentations

Writing Assignments: Over the course of the semester, through a series of individual writing assignments, you will each select and engage with a research question related to gender and economics. Your main assignments will be (1) literature review and (2) explanation of quantitative evidence from a scholarly paper.

Presentations: Students will formally present results of each writing assignments in class, with slides, for at most 5 minutes each.

Participation

Class attendance is mandatory. In order to benefit fully from the classroom discussion, it is important that you complete reading and other assignments before we meet. Depending on the class, these will include textbook sections or scholarly research articles. You should arrive on time and ready to engage. Completing an online course evaluation at the end of the semester is also part of your expected participation.

Statistical Software

Some work for this class will require data analysis with the aid of a software package. You can use any software, but instructor support will only be provided for Stata. The UVA Library's [Research Data and Services](#) team provides support for Stata and other software packages. Stata can be accessed from computers in the UVA ITC public labs and may also be accessed on your personal computers using ITS Remote Applications. You can also purchase your own Stata license at a discounted student price.

Late Assignments

The policy of this course is that late work will be penalized with a 25% score reduction for work submitted within 24 hours of the submission deadline and a 50% deduction between 24 and 48 hours. Work submitted more than 48 hours late will not be graded. If you will be absent from class, it is your responsibility to arrange delivery of your assignment on time (or in advance).

Accommodations

Students with special needs requiring accommodations must present the appropriate paperwork from the Student Disability Access Center ([SDAC](#)) within the first 2 weeks of classes or within 2 weeks of receiving an accommodation. It is the student's responsibility to present this paperwork in a timely fashion and follow up with the instructor about the accommodations being offered.

Recording Policy

Students are not permitted to photograph, audio or video record, or live-stream in any way, any class meetings, including lectures, discussions, office hours or student presentations. Even when meetings take place in online or hybrid format, I will not create recordings of the meetings. This policy aims to protect the privacy of individuals in the class and to create an atmosphere that is conducive to free and open dialogue. See the university guidelines [here](#).