University of Virginia – Department of Economics

**ECON 4559-002: Gender and Economics**

Spring 2018

Lectures**:** TuTh, 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm, New Cabell Hall 032

UVaCollab Page: 18Sp Gender and Economics

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Office Hours: Fridays, 10:30 am – noon

**Course Description**

The transformation of women’s lives in the past century is among the most significant and far-reaching social and economic phenomenon, affecting not only women, but also their partners and children. In both developed and developing countries, women are acquiring more education, marrying later, having fewer children and spending a far greater fraction of their adult lives in the 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 relating to the 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.

The economics of gender is extremely contemporary, controversial and exciting. By contrast, the political rhetoric surrounding gender and the family is often facile, partisan, boring and uninformative. You are expected to bring an open mind to the material. My aim is to develop your skills as an economic thinker and as a policy analyst in addition to helping you become a better and more confident writer.

**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*, 3rd Edition by Saul D. Hoffman and Susan L. Averett. Note that earlier versions of the text are not acceptable as the third edition is a complete restructuring of the text.

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

**Course Outline**

The topics covered will follow the order of the textbook chapters. We will generally devote about 1 week to each chapter.

**Assessment**

Your final grade will be based on:

Homework Assignments 30%

Writing Assignments 40%

In-class Presentations 10%

Participation 10%

Peer Feedback 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. If you work in a group, submit a single assignment for the group with all your names.

*Paper Questions*: I will also assign paper questions related to 4 of the supplemental readings from published papers. You will individually submit answers to 2 of these question sets.

**Writing Assignments**

Over the course of the semester, through a series of writing assignments, you will each engage deeply with a topic of your choosing related to gender and economics. These exercises will include a literature review, economic modeling, data analysis, and translation of quantitative evidence to lay audiences. The culmination of this work will be a policy memo related to the research question of interest.

**Presentations**

You will formally present results from writing assignments in class. My current plan is to have 2 in-class presentations for each student, with slides, lasting 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 assignments *before* we meet. Depending on the class, these will include textbook sections, published research articles or materials produced by your classmates. 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 required participation.

**Peer Feedback**

The class will also incorporate formal peer feedback exercises for the writing assignments.

**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. Stata can be used on computers in the UVA ITC public labs and may also be accessed from the Hive. Stata can also be purchased for home computers at a discounted price via the GradPlan. The Scholars Lab at Alderman Library can provide support for Stata and other software.

**Writing Component**

Although this class is designed to satisfy the Second Writing Requirement (SWR) guidelines, it is not officially designated as such, because it is a new course. Students interested in receiving SWR credit for the class must submit an individual request.

**Late Assignments**

The policy of this course is that late work will not be accepted. If you will be absent from class, it is your responsibility to arrange delivery of your assignment on time (or in advance).

**Special Needs**

Students with special needs requiring accommodations must present the appropriate paperwork from the Learning Needs and Evaluation Center (LNEC) within the first two weeks of class. 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.