

Economics of Gender (Econ 447/GWSS 447)

Professor Rachel Heath

Fall 2024

Tuesday and Thursday; 10:30-12:20 pm; Thomson 119

Contact information

Email: rmheath@uw.edu (please use this rather than sending me a message via Canvas).

Office hours: Tuesday, 1:30-3:25 (in person, Savery 335) and by appointment.

Office location: Savery 335

Textbook: Mukesh Eswaran, *Why Gender Matters in Economics*. Princeton University Press, 2014.

Prerequisites: At least a 2.0 in Intermediate Microeconomics and Macroeconomics (Econ 300 and 301).

Grading rubric

30 percent	Midterm 1
30 percent	Midterm 2
25 percent	Final paper
15 percent	Participation in class discussions and activities

Class format: Class will meet in person.

Information on Final Project: The final project for the class is a 6 to 8 page double-spaced paper (not including graphs and charts, or references) on an important *policy question* related to gender and the economy. The final draft of the paper is due at the end of the exam period (December 13).

Some suggestions for topics will be posted on the course webpage, but you are encouraged to work on another topic if you have a specific interest. You should make sure to frame it as a policy question, though. For instance, if you are interested in, say, gender differences in the tendency to bargain, your paper should not just be “gender differences in the tendency to bargain”. Instead, you should focus on a question policymakers are asking (or at least, might be asking at some future time), such as what policies can close gender gaps in salaries due to a differential tendency to negotiate. I will post a list of suggestions on Canvas.

The overall outline of the paper is below:

- (i) **Introduction**
Define the issue and explain why it is important.
- (ii) **Economic Analysis:**

How can economic tools be applied to analyze the issue? What existing evidence do we have? (This should be the longest section of the paper. While you can reference the popular press, blog postings, policy briefs, etc. you should also include citations to relevant papers in the economics literature. – e.g. American Economic Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, etc. You can cite the papers on the class syllabus, but you should make sure to supplement them with additional papers as well. You can apply the economic models you have learned in other classes to the issue if you find it helpful, although this is certainly not required.)

(iii) **Conclusion**

What lessons can we learn from the economics analysis? (i.e. what are the policy recommendations or what are the new insights for the business world or the academic world etc.).

(iv) **References**

No specific format (e.g. MLA, APA) is required, but just make sure to cite your references

To help spread the work over the course of the quarter and provide you opportunity to seek advice and feedback, the final project will be due in stages. To turn in each stage, look for a link under “Assignments” on Canvas.

Tuesday, Oct 22	Proposed topic and at least five potential sources from economics literature
Tuesday, Nov 5	Outline
Thursday, Nov 14	Rough draft
Friday, Dec 13	Final draft

Feedback on early stages of final project: I will look over your topics/sources, outline, and rough draft, but grade based on completeness (zero or full credit) rather than give a numeric grade. I’ll only give written feedback if something is way off base. But you are encouraged to come discuss the paper in office hours, where I am happy to give very detailed feedback.

Writing credit. You can get writing credit for the class if meet with me at least once in office hours to discuss your paper. I’ll circulate a sign-up sheet in early November so that I know whom to expect and make sure to submit the credit.

Policies on writing recommendation letters.

I know that some of you want to go on to employment or graduate school opportunities that require letter of recommendation. Writing letters of recommendation is an important part of my job, but to that end, I need to make sure that I have the time to prioritize the students for whom I can write strong letters. Accordingly, I have the following non-negotiable requirements for letters of recommendation:

- The student must have already **COMPLETED** at least one class with me when they ask for a letter of recommendation.
- The student must have participated **ACTIVELY** in class discussions.

Grading policies

- Do not cheat or plagiarize. Anyone caught cheating runs the risk of failing the class, and/or being reported to the dean. Here is the official department policy on cheating:
Academic integrity is the cornerstone of the Department's rules for student conduct and evaluation of student learning. Students accused of academic misconduct will be referred directly to the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct for disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Conduct Code and, if found guilty, will be subject to sanctions. Sanctions range from a disciplinary warning, to academic probation, to immediate dismissal for the Department and the University, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct. Dismissal can be, and has been, applied even for first offenses. Moreover, a grade of zero can be assigned by the instructor for the course.
- Plagiarism includes the use of any writing that is not your own without citation. Generative AI is not strictly prohibited in the class – many students, for instance, find it useful to generate suggestions to improve the grammar/readability of their text – but if you use it, you should acknowledge it as a source. Note also that generative AI is well-known for making up sources – and does not understand the readings in the context we have used them in the class – so you're responsible for making sure any work generated by AI is actually correct.¹
- If you would like to challenge a grade, you need to write a memo explaining which questions you believe have been unfairly graded, and providing justification for why you think your answer deserves more points than it has received. Email me this memo. I will then regrade your exam, in light of the material you have provided. Since I will regrade your whole exam, your grade could either go up or down.

Email policy: Email is fine for quick questions about the course, though allow 2 business days for a response. I generally will not have capacity to answer substantive questions about course material over email, especially in the 24 hours before an exam. Please attend office hours instead; I will typically schedule extra office hours before an exam.

Schedule

- Changes may be announced over email (so please check your official UW email regularly)
- I will plan to post the slides before class for those who like to take notes on the slides themselves (and/or who might want to refer forward or back to other slides during class). If I make any changes between then and the class -- or notice corrections that need to be made during class -- I'll post an updated version after class.

Date	Topics	Reading(s)
Thursday, September 26, 2024	Course introduction	UN Human Development Report. 2019. Chapter 4 ("Gender inequalities beyond averages: Between social norms and power imbalances")

¹ My thanks to Professor Sarah Quinn in the sociology department for a helpful discussion that informed this policy.

	An introduction to gender disparities in economic outcomes	https://hdr.undp.org/content/human-development-report-2019 Jayachandran, Seema. 2015. Does Economic Development Mean Less Discrimination Against Women? <i>The Milliken Institute Review</i> . (https://assets1b.milkeninstitute.org/assets/Publication/MIReview/PDF/36-47-MR65.pdf)
Tuesday, October 1, 2024	Gender differences in economic behavior	Eswaran, chapter 2
Thursday, October 3, 2024	Continue gender differences in economic behavior; start models of household bargaining	Eswaran, chapters 2 and 3 Teodora Boneva, Thomas Buser, Armin Falk, Fabian Kosse. The Origins of Gender Differences in Competitiveness and Earnings Expectations: Causal Evidence from a Mentoring Intervention: https://www.povertyactionlab.org/sites/default/files/research-paper/Origins_of_Gender_Differences_0.pdf Duflo, Esther. "Grandmothers and granddaughters: old-age pensions and intrahousehold allocation in South Africa." <i>The World Bank Economic Review</i> 17.1 (2003):
Tuesday, October 8, 2024	Models of household bargaining	Eswaran, chapter 3 Udry, Christopher. " <i>Gender, agricultural production, and the theory of the household.</i> " <i>Journal of Political Economy</i> 104.5 (1996): 1010-1046. "Want to keep girls in school? Help them negotiate" https://nl4worldbank.org/2018/06/14/want-to-keep-girls-in-school-teach-them-to-negotiate/
Thursday, October 10, 2024	Models of household bargaining; begin labor market discrimination	Eswaran, chapter 3 Eswaran, chapter 4
Tuesday, October 15, 2024	Labor market discrimination	Eswaran, chapter 4
Thursday, October 17, 2024	Credit markets and entrepreneurship	Eswaran, chapter 5 Fafchamps, Marcel, David McKenzie, Simon Quinn, and Christopher Woodruff. "Microenterprise growth and the flypaper effect: Evidence from a randomized experiment in Ghana." <i>Journal of Development Economics</i> 106 (2014): 211-226.

Tuesday, October 22, 2024	Globalization	<p>Eswaran, chapter 6</p> <p>Lisa Cameron, Jennifer Seager, and Manisha Shah, "Crimes against Morality: Unintended Consequences of Criminalizing Sex Work," <i>Quarterly Journal of Economics</i> 136, no. 1 (February 2021): 427–69, https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjaa032.</p> <p>Final paper due date #1 (Topic and sources)</p>
Thursday, October 24, 2024	Globalization case study: women in the garment industry in Bangladesh	<p>Heath, Rachel and A. Mushfiq Mobarak. 2015. "Manufacturing Growth and the Lives of Bangladeshi Women" <i>Journal of Development Economics</i>. 115: 1–15.</p> <p>"Worker Safety in Bangladesh and Beyond." <i>New York Times</i> Editorial. May 4, 2013.</p> <p>Kristof, Nicholas "Where Sweatshops are a Dream." <i>New York Times</i>, January 14, 2009.</p> <p>Bossavie, Laurent, Yoonyoung Cho, and Rachel Heath. "The effects of international scrutiny on manufacturing workers: Evidence from the Rana Plaza collapse in Bangladesh." <i>Journal of Development Economics</i> 163 (2023): 103107.</p>
Tuesday, October 29, 2024	MIDTERM 1	
Thursday, October 31, 2024	Marriage	<p>Eswaran, chapter 7</p> <p>Dreger, Alice. "When Taking Multiple Husbands Makes Sense", <i>The Atlantic</i>, February 1, 2013. https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2013/02/when-taking-multiple-husbands-makes-sense/272726/</p>
Tuesday, November 5, 2024	Marriage	<p>Eswaran, chapter 7</p> <p>Anderson, Siwan. "The economics of dowry and brideprice." <i>The Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> (2007): 151-174.</p> <p>Final paper due date #2 (Outline)</p>
Thursday, November 7, 2024	Fertility	<p>Eswaran, chapter 8</p> <p>Brink, Susan. "Selecting Boys Over Girls Is A Trend In More And More Countries", NPR Goats and Soda Blog. August 26, 2015.</p>

		https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2015/08/26/434616512/selecting-boys-over-girls-is-a-trend-in-more-and-more-countries
Tuesday, November 12, 2024	Fertility	Eswaran, chapter 9
Thursday, November 14, 2024	Suffrage	Eswaran, chapter 10 Final paper due date #3 (Rough draft)
Tuesday, November 19, 2024	Empowering women	Eswaran, chapter 11 Chapter 3 of World Bank. 2012. World Development Report 2012 : Gender Equality and Development. World Bank. © World Bank. https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/4391
Thursday, November 21, 2024	Empowering women	Eswaran, chapter 11
Tuesday, November 26, 2024	Gender economic beyond the binary; Economics of LGBTQ+ issues.	Coffman, Katherine B., Lucas C. Coffman, and Keith Marzilli Ericson. Non-Binary Gender Economics. No. w32222. National Bureau of Economic Research, 2024. Badgett, MV Lee, Christopher S. Carpenter, and Dario Sansone. "LGBTQ economics." Journal of Economic Perspectives 35, no. 2 (2021): 141-170.
Thursday, November 28, 2024	No class; Thanksgiving	
Tuesday, December 3, 2024	TBA/catch-up	
Thursday, December 5, 2024	MIDTERM 2	

Final Paper due date #4 (Final draft) due by 11:59 pm the last day of the exam period (December 13). Turn in to link on Canvas.