

Economics of Gender (Econ 447/GWSS 447)

Professor Rachel Heath

Spring 2022

Tuesday and Thursday; 10:30 am -12:20 pm

Contact information

Email: rmheath@uw.edu

Office hours: Tuesday, 3:10 – 4:10 and by appointment.

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 discussions in class and the online forum

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) on an important *policy question* related to gender and the economy. The paper is due on the date of the final exam.

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.

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

Information on online forum postings: As part of your class participation grade, you should **participate at least five times** on one of the online discussions that I will post every Thursday during the quarter. Your postings should be around 1 or 2 paragraphs (so about 200 words). At least one should be a reply to a classmate's posting. (Reply does not have to mean disagreement. You can build on one of their points as well.). To keep the discussion active and fresh, you should plan on participating **within 1 week of the posting.**

Grading policies

- Do not cheat. 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.
- 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.

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 always post an updated version after class.

Date	Topics	Reading(s)
Tuesday, March 29, 2022	Course introduction An introduction to gender disparities in economic outcomes	UN Human Development Report. 2019. Chapter 4 (“Gender inequalities beyond averages: Between social norms and power imbalances”) http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr2019.pdf Jayachandran, Seema. 2015. Does Economic Development Mean Less Discrimination Against Women? <i>The Milliken Institute Review</i> . (https://assets1b.milkeninstitute.org/assets/Publication/MIRReview/PDF/36-47-MR65.pdf)
Thursday, March 31, 2022	Gender differences in economic behavior	Eswaran, chapter 2
Tuesday, April 5, 2022	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):
Thursday, April 7, 2022	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/
Tuesday, April 12, 2022	Models of household bargaining; begin labor market discrimination	Eswaran, chapter 3 Eswaran, chapter 4
Thursday, April 14, 2022	Labor market discrimination	Eswaran, chapter 4
Tuesday, April 19,	Credit markets and entrepreneurship	Eswaran, chapter 5

2022		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.
Thursday, April 21, 2022	Globalization	Eswaran, chapter 6
Tuesday, April 26, 2022	Globalization case study: women in the garment industry in Bangladesh	Heath, Rachel and A. Mushfiq Mobarak. 2015. "Manufacturing Growth and the Lives of Bangladeshi Women" <i>Journal of Development Economics</i> . 115: 1-15. "Worker Safety in Bangladesh and Beyond." <i>New York Times</i> Editorial. May 4, 2013. Kristof, Nicholas "Where Sweatshops are a Dream." <i>New York Times</i> , January 14, 2009.
Thursday, April 28, 2022	MIDTERM 1	
Tuesday, May 3, 2022	Marriage	Eswaran, chapter 7 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/
Thursday, May 5, 2022	Marriage	Eswaran, chapter 7 Anderson, Siwan. "The economics of dowry and brideprice." <i>The Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> (2007): 151-174.
Tuesday, May 10, 2022	Fertility	Eswaran, chapter 8 Brink, Susan. "Selecting Boys Over Girls Is A Trend In More And More Countries", NPR Goats and Soda Blog. August 26, 2015. https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2015/08/26/434616512/selecting-boys-over-girls-is-a-trend-in-more-and-more-countries
Thursday, May 12, 2022	Fertility	Eswaran, chapter 9
Tuesday, May 17, 2022	Suffrage	Eswaran, chapter 10

Thursday, May 19, 2022	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
Tuesday, May 24, 2022	Empowering women	Eswaran, chapter 11
Thursday, May 26, 2022	TBA/catch up	
Tuesday, May 31, 2022	TBA/catch up	
Thursday, June 2, 2022	MIDTERM 2	

Final Paper due on the day of the final exam (turn in to link on Canvas).