

Economics of Gender (Econ 447/GWSS 447)

Professor Rachel Heath

Spring 2021

Tuesday and Thursday; 10:30 am -12:20 pm (on Zoom)

Contact information

Email: rmheath@uw.edu

Office hours: Thursday, 9:00 – 10:25 am and by appointment.

Class intros: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CRSn-okb9cxVeGf1_aOOfCcFiVDkQaWtQg7nVVBzU3Y/edit?usp=sharing

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

30 percent Final paper

10 percent Class participation/participation in online forum

Attendance and participation

- Lectures will be recorded.
- As noted above, the participation grade is a mix of participation in class and participation in an online forum. It is possible to get full marks based only on participation in the online forum, though contributions will need to be truly excellent in this case.
- If you would like a letter of recommendation from me, the only way I will have sufficient material to put in the letter is if you attend class and participate.

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 outline of the paper should be:

- (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.

Zoom policies:

- I was on sabbatical last winter and spring, and taught a small graduate course in the fall. I thank you in advance for your patience as I learn some of the techniques that your other instructors have already mastered.
- Related to the above, suggestions/comments/feedback about how to improve the course functionality very welcome (as well as any other aspect of the course as well!)
- I believe that keeping your camera on promotes a community atmosphere and facilitates dialogue, so please keep your camera on whenever possible. With that said, I know that sometimes you would prefer not to have your camera on.
- If you have a question during lecture, I may not notice “raised hands” or chats, so please don’t be shy about unmuting yourself to ask questions. I will also try to pause for questions more than I would in an in-person class.

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 30, 2021	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/MIREview/PDF/36-47-MR65.pdf)
Thursday, April 1, 2021	Gender differences in economic behavior	Eswaran, chapter 2
Tuesday, April 6, 2021	Continue gender differences in economic behavior; start models of household bargaining	Eswaran, chapters 2 and 3 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 8, 2021	Models of household bargaining	Eswaran, chapter 3

Tuesday, April 13, 2021	Models of household bargaining; begin labor market discrimination	Eswaran, chapter 3 Udry, Christopher. "Gender, agricultural production, and the theory of the household." <i>Journal of Political Economy</i> 104.5 (1996): 1010-1046.
Thursday, April 15, 2021	Labor market discrimination	Eswaran, chapter 4
Tuesday, April 20, 2021	Credit markets	Eswaran, chapter 5
Total surveys ii Thursday, April 22, 2021	Globalization	Eswaran, chapter 6
Tuesday, April 27, 2021	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 29, 2021	MIDTERM 1	
Tuesday, May 4, 2021	Marriage	Eswaran, chapter 7
Thursday, May 6, 2021	Marriage	Eswaran, chapter 7 Anderson, Siwan. "The economics of dowry and brideprice." <i>The Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> (2007): 151-174.
Tuesday, May 11, 2021	Fertility	Eswaran, chapter 8
Thursday, May 13, 2021	Fertility	Eswaran, chapter 9
Tuesday, May 18, 2021	Suffrage	Eswaran, chapter 10
Thursday, May 20,	Empowering women	Eswaran, chapter 11

2021		
Tuesday, May 25, 2021	Empowering women	Eswaran, chapter 11
Thursday, May 27, 2021	TBA/catch up	
Tuesday, June 1, 2021	TBA/catch up	
Thursday, June 3, 2021	MIDTERM 2	

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