

# Econ 400: Economics of Gender and Work

Chancellors Hall Room 132, T/Th 2-3:20 pm

Instructor: Professor Emily Moschini

## General Course Information

- **Instructor Contact Information** Email: [egmoschini@wm.edu](mailto:egmoschini@wm.edu) Office Hours: T/Th 7-8 pm, via zoom (see Blackboard for link). I do not have office hours during Spring break or between the end of classes and the final exam.
- **Textbook** *The Economics of Women, Men, and Work*, by Francine Blau and Anne Winkler, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition.
- **Important Deadlines** Add-drop period ends Feb. 4. Last day to withdraw from the course is Mar. 28.
- **Important Dates** Final exam day: May 13. See the calendar later in this syllabus for other important dates. Please verify that, barring illness, you can attend all presentations and meet the final essay deadline. No extensions will be granted for any assignment – see COVID Policies section.
- **Course Description** This course focuses on the analysis of gender differences in economic outcomes, both in the labor market and in the household. You will learn about key observed labor differences across genders, including labor market participation, occupational choices, and wages. Together, we will assess some of the empirical evidence for and against various theories that try to explain those differences. The focus is on the United States, but the international context is also discussed. The prerequisite for this course is Econ 303 or Econ 304.
- **Classroom Behavior** For in-person meetings, including classroom lectures, your COVID mask must be high-quality and stay fitted snugly over your nose and mouth at all times. Food or drink are not allowed in the classroom because removing your mask may expose you, and everyone around you, to disease. Wearing masks can be uncomfortable, but the instructor will follow these rules too and lecture with a mask on. Please: avoid disruptive behavior (e.g., sleeping in class is not permitted). If you need to leave the room temporarily during class, try to minimize the noise you make. During class meetings, unless otherwise instructed, laptops must be in your bag and cell phones should only be out if we are conducting a survey.

## Grades

- **Graded Components:**
  1. 8 weekly reading assignments, and their associated reading activity on Blackboard. This activity is graded for completion - can skip 2 with no penalty.
  2. 2 group presentations. Details for these assignments will be posted in separate documents.
  3. A final individual essay due by the day of final exam. Details for this assignment will be posted in a separate document.
- **How Grades are Computed:** Table 1 gives contribution to the course grade of each component. Letter grade cutoffs are standard: A ( $\geq 92\%$ ), A- (90-92), B+ (86-90), B (82-86), etc.

Component	% of Grade
Reading Assignment Activities (6 @ 5%)	30
Group Presentations (2 @ 20%)	40
Final Essay	30

- **Academic Integrity** Academic integrity is at the heart of the university. The *Student Handbook* ([www.wm.edu/studenthandbook](http://www.wm.edu/studenthandbook)) includes your responsibilities as a student. To read the Honor Code, see [www.wm.edu/honor](http://www.wm.edu/honor). A minimum penalty for any breach of academic integrity is a grade of F for the course.

- **Academic Accommodations** It is the policy of The College of William & Mary to accommodate students with disabilities and qualifying diagnosed conditions in accordance with federal and state laws. Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a learning, psychiatric, physical or chronic health diagnosis should be referred to Student Accessibility Services (SAS) staff at 757- 221-2509 or at [sas@wm.edu](mailto:sas@wm.edu). SAS staff will work with you to determine if accommodations are warranted, and if so, to help you obtain an official letter of accommodation. For more information, please see [www.wm.edu/sas](http://www.wm.edu/sas).

## COVID Policy

This semester, the world will enter its third year with COVID. As we experience a fifth surge of pandemic with the highly transmissible omicron variant, it is reasonable to expect significant levels of infection at W&M. As an academic community based on faculty and students *convening*, Spring 2022 courses will largely consist of in-person instruction. All of us will follow W&M requirements—vaccinations and boosters, indoor masking, as well as quarantine and isolation when ill. The last requirement is very important: for those who have tested positive, W&M’s requirements must be fulfilled before class can be attended in person, and, out of an abundance of caution, anyone with symptoms consistent with COVID (even if they don’t have a positive test) should not come to class.

Please note that testing positive for COVID or any other temporary illness is not considered a disability as defined by ADA guidelines and is not under the purview of W&M’s Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Thus, any questions should be addressed via email to the instructor. Link for student resources: <https://www.wm.edu/sites/pathforward/students/student-resources/index.php>.

As soon as you (the student) know that you will not be able to attend class in person (either because of having tested positive, having symptoms consistent with COVID, or other health matters), ***you should email me*** (the instructor). In that case, I will make a note that you will be absent and expect to see you join the class via zoom. Please make every effort not to miss classes for non-health related reasons.

For this course in Spring 2022, here is how we will address **student** absences:

- For individual students: assignments you cannot complete while absent will count towards the allotment of skippable assignments. If you are too sick to contribute to your group presentation, you must notify me before your group presents and I will move the grade weight to the final paper. Lectures can be attended via zoom (link on Bb).
- For both courses that I teach: if too many students are going to be attending remotely or be absent at a given time in either of the courses I teach, I will move everything online (remote *synchronous* mode) for 1 week for both courses, with the potential for extending this to 2 weeks if necessary (or more). I will notify you of this change in delivery mode beforehand via email and the zoom link will be on Blackboard. While meeting on zoom, we will continue to follow the course outline in this syllabus.

For this course in Spring 2022, here is how we will address **instructor** absences:

- If my health allows, I will move everything online (remote *synchronous* mode) for 1 week, with the potential for extending this to 2 weeks (or more). I will notify you of this change in delivery mode beforehand via email and the zoom link will be on Blackboard. We will continue to follow the course outline in this syllabus.
- If my health does not allow me to continue live instruction, we will move to remote *asynchronous* delivery mode. You will still need to keep up with your assignments (see course outline). Email me with questions and I will respond to the best of my ability. Changes to the course outline, if necessary, will be broadcasted.

## Course Outline

\*I may change the order of topics/presentation dates. See the COVID Policies section.

ACTIVITY CODE KEY: “L” stands for lecture; “RD” stands for student-led reading discussion; “SH” study hall (these days are for making progress on your presentation; I will be available to help).

Week	Date	Topic	Activity	Reading Assignment (on Bb)	Reading Activity (on Bb)
1	27-Jan	Introduction			
2	1-Feb	Historical perspective	L		
2	3-Feb		L + RD	Reading Assignment #1	RA #1
3	8-Feb	The family as an economic unit: theory	L		
3	10-Feb		L + RD	Reading Assignment #2	RA #2
4	15-Feb	The family as an economic unit: evidence	L		
4	17-Feb		L + RD	Reading Assignment #3	RA #3
5	22-Feb	The labor force: definitions and trends	L		
5	24-Feb		L + RD	Reading Assignment #4	RA #4
6	1-Mar	The labor supply decision	L		
6	3-Mar	Presentation prep	SH		
7	8-Mar	Group presentations #1: see separate handout posted on Bb for specifics			
7	10-Mar				
8		<b>SPRING BREAK</b>			
9	22-Mar	Gender differences:	L		
9	24-Mar	labor market outcomes	L + RD	Reading Assignment #5	RA #5
10	29-Mar	Gender differences:	L		
10	31-Mar	educational attainment	L + RD	Reading Assignment #6	RA #6
11	5-Apr	Other sources of gender differences in	L		
11	7-Apr	earnings and occupations: evidence	L + RD	Reading Assignment #7	RA #7
12	12-Apr	Labor market discrimination	L		
12	14-Apr	Presentation prep	SH		
13	19-Apr	Group presentations #2: see separate handout posted on Bb for specifics			
13	21-Apr				
14	26-Apr	Gender differences around the world	L		
14	28-Apr		L + RD	Reading Assignment #8	RA #8
15	3-May	Comparison: economically adv. countries	L		
15	5-May	Final paper prep	SH		
Final Exam Day		Final paper due at 11:59 pm on final exam day – submit via Bb, see handout on Bb for specifics			