

Winter 2004
COURSE SYLLABUS
ECO 5410: ECONOMICS OF RACE AND GENDER

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Lecture: TTh 10:40-12:30, 226 Cohn
Office Hours: TTh 1:30-2:30 or by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

This course explores how the discipline of economics can explain and analyze issues surrounding racial issues, women, and work. The goal of this course is to provide the student both a theoretical explanation and an empirical account of race and gender differences in the labor markets. We will also focus on the effects of policies such as affirmative action. In this class, economic models and simple statistical analysis will be used. Therefore, students must be familiar with the content of principles of microeconomics.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grades will be based on points earned in the following area:

1. Midterm, 25%
2. Final Exam, 30%
3. Final Paper, 30% (incl. presentation 5%)
4. Class Attendance, 15%

Make-Up Examinations: No make-up examinations will be scheduled except under highly unusual circumstances. You will be required to present **WRITTEN** documentation concerning the excuse. Students who miss an exam without submitting a valid excuse to me before the exam will receive zero score.

Midterm: The midterm is given in class and is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday March 4. The date should be assumed to be fixed unless I announce changes to the schedule through an in-class announcement.

Final Exam: The final exam for this course has been scheduled by the registrar for Wednesday April 28 at 10:40pm. This time is fixed and will not change. Do not register for this course if you cannot make the final exam.

Final Paper: 3-4 page paper on a subject of your choice related to the economics of race and gender. The paper is due 5pm on Monday, May 3.

Provost Nancy Barrett will visit our class and will hold a guest lecture on Thursday February 5!!

Academic Integrity: In this course, any student caught cheating will receive zero score for the assignment. Any cheating will be reported to the Department for further action under the student Due Process Policy.

REQUIRED READINGS:

[BF] Francine Blau, Marianne Ferber, and Anne Winkler, The Economics of Women, Men and Work, Prentice Hall, 2001.

SUGGESTED READINGS:

Some of the suggested readings below will be covered in class. They are not required but help you understand the materials.

Glenn G. Loury, The Anatomy of Racial Inequality, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 2002.

Glenn G. Loury, Discrimination in the Post-Civil Rights Era: Beyond Market Interactions, Journal of Economic Perspectives 12, Spring 1998, 117-26.

Gary Becker, Economics of Discrimination, 2nd edition, University of Chicago Press, 1971.

Randall Filer, Daniel Hamermesh, and Albert Rees, The Economics of Work and Pay, 6th edition, Harper Collins, 1996.

Neal and Johnson, The Role of Premarket Factors in Black-White Wage Differences, Journal of Political Economy, 104(5), 1996, 869-895.

Stephen Coate and Glenn Loury, Will Affirmative-Action Policies Eliminate Negative Stereotypes? American Economic Review, 83(5), 1220-1240.

Goldin, Claudia and Cecilia Rouse, Orchestrating Impartiality, The Impact of 'Blind' Auditions on Female Musicians American Economic Review 2000.

Goldin, Claudia and Lawrence F. Katz, The Power of the Pill: Oral Contraceptives and Women's Career and Marriage Decisions, Journal of Political Economy, August 2002.

Emiko Usui, Wages, Non-Wage Characteristics, and Predominantly Female Jobs, November 2003.

Emiko Usui, Gender Occupational Segregation in an Equilibrium Search Model, December 2003.

TOPICS

1. Introduction and definitions
2. Empirical Evidence
 - a) Facts about demographic differentials
 - i. Gender labor market differentials in the US and across countries [BF Ch 5, 11]
 - ii. Race wage differentials in the US
 - b) Measures of discrimination
 - i. Introduction to regression analysis
 - ii. Race and gender as a dummy variable
 - iii. The Oaxaca decomposition
3. Theory
 - a) Differences in occupations and earnings
 - i. The allocation of time between the household and the labor market [BF Ch 4]
 - ii. Compensating differentials [BF Ch 6]
 - iii. Human capital model [BF Ch 6]
 - b) Becker's theory of taste discrimination [BF Ch 7]
 - i. Employers discrimination
 - ii. Employee discrimination
 - iii. Consumers discrimination
 - c) Statistical discrimination
4. Poverty and Public Policy [BF, Ch 10]
5. Recent Developments in the Labor Market