

Syllabus
University of Oklahoma
Department of Economics
ECON 4513: The Economics of Discrimination Spring 2023

Professor: Dr. Chunbei Wang

Office Location: Room 438 Cate Center 1

Email: chunbei.wang@ou.edu

Office Hours: On Zoom Tuesdays 12:20 pm – 1:20 pm, or by appointment.

Meeting ID: 925 0743 0909

Passcode: econwang

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/92507430909?pwd=T3J3MnpFS2ovVm dxUDE3Z0tONHJqUT09>

Learning Management System: canvas.ou.edu

Course Meeting Time and Location: TR 10:30 – 11:45 am, Cate Center One 338

Course Prerequisite: a grade of C or better in ECON 1113 Principles of Macro and ECON 1123 Principles of Micro

COVID Safety Policy:

1. Mask wearing is encouraged in the classroom.
2. Please do not come to class if you feel sick with any of the COVID symptoms, even if they are mild.

Course Description:

This course examines the differences in labor market outcomes across gender and race. Traditional economic models such as the theories of comparative advantage, supply and demand, and consumer choices will be introduced to provide interesting insights on the issues of family and work, discrimination, and related government policies. Statistical tools and empirical research methods are incorporated throughout the course to understand the extent of labor market discrimination.

Course Goals:

Students will learn to apply economic theories to think critically on various labor market issues, especially discrimination. They will also be acquainted with and critically assess various economic research methods that provide empirical evidence on discrimination.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Define discrimination, various types of discrimination, and discuss causes of labor market outcome differences.
2. Assess empirical methods and evidence.
3. Apply course materials to everyday life and current issues and find answers to a

question from the academic literature.

Recommended Textbook:

The Economics of Women, Men, and Work (8th edition), by Francine D. Blau and Anne E. Winkler, Oxford University Press.

Supplemental Readings:

Supplemental readings of journal and newspaper articles will be provided on Canvas during the semester.

Requirements and Grading:

The course requirements include exercises, problem sets, group projects, group presentations, and exams. The following is a detailed description of the requirements.

The weights in the final grade are assigned as follows:

Exercises	10%	Exam I	15%
Problem Sets	15%	Exam II	20%
Projects	10%	Final Exam	20%
Presentations	5%	Participation	5%

Letter Grade Criteria

A	90-100	B	80-89	C	70-79	D	60-69	F	<60
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1. *Exercises (10%)*

Frequent in-class exercises will be given. You will be allowed to use books and notes and discuss with your classmates. Please scan your answers and submit on Canvas. If you miss a class, please download the exercise and submit your answer on Canvas by the end of the day of the missed class. If you need a deadline extension for health or emergency reasons, please inform me via email as soon as possible.

2. *Problem Sets (15%)*

Problem sets will be posted on Canvas and answers should be submitted electronically on Canvas as well. Group discussion is encouraged when working on the problem sets but your answers should show **individual** understanding of the materials.

LATE problem sets will be marked down 10% if it is 1 class period overdue, 20% if 2 class periods overdue, and so on. Late problem sets will **ONLY** be accepted before solutions are given.

3. *Projects (10%)*

The projects are reports that focus on enhancing the knowledge via applications and self-learning.

There will be 3 projects, each with 2 topic options (a total of 6 topics). Each person will need to sign up on 1 topic to present your report. On the projects that you are not due for presentation, you may choose either of the two topics for your report and be ready to discuss. The sign-up sheet is available on Canvas, and you should sign up as soon as possible.

Project 1:

Due the class after 1st exam

Topic 1: Specialization Theory/Division of Labor within Household

Topic 2: Labor Supply Theory

Project 2:

Due the class after 2nd exam

Topic 3: Gender/Racial Differences in Characteristics

Topic 4: Gender/Racial Differences in Treatment (Discrimination)

Project 3:

Due the class before final exam

Topic 5: Marriage Market

Topic 6: Marriage Tax/Bonus and Economics of Divorce

The reports should be at least 2 pages double-spaced, and include 2 parts:

1) Applications

Provide examples of how the materials learned in class are applied in the real world. This could be a personal example of how the theories could be used in your everyday life, a connection to current issues, or a discussion of a related news article (such as from the Economist or the New York Times). It can be various applications of the same or different materials under the topic. Please provide thorough **details** as to how the applications utilize the theories learned in class instead of just mentioning some terminology. Think of this as a chance to **showcase** how much you have learned in class. They should be applications that have not already been given as examples in class.

2) Extended Knowledge

Identify question(s) that you are curious about after learning the materials and would like to find answer(s). Then use economics search databases to find academic articles (published in academic journals) that try to answer your question(s), and briefly summarize the findings. They should be questions that have not already been given answers to in class. The articles you find could be a literature review type of article that summarizes existing research on the question, or an original empirical research paper, and is published more recently (in the past few years) in **peer-reviewed academic journals**.

This part should include a clear question – the question you are curious about, and how the academic research you found answers your question.

Recommended databases to look for economics **academic** articles:

ECONLIT (in OU libraries databases) or <https://scholar.google.com/>

4. *Presentation (5%)*

You will sign up to present one topic in one project on the designated date listed in the course schedule. You should use slides, and plan for 10 minutes of presentation, followed by 5 minutes of discussion.

If you have an emergency or a serious illness and have to miss your presentation, please inform me as soon as possible.

5. *Exams (15%, 20%, 20%)*

There will be three exams and they are closed book and closed notes. The exam dates are listed in the course schedule of this syllabus. Unless otherwise announced in class or by email, we will follow those schedules.

It is your responsibility to take exams at the scheduled times and to make alternative arrangements in advance if you have a legitimate reason for not being able to take an exam. If you miss an exam without making prior arrangements, you will only be allowed a make-up if you provide appropriate documentation.

6. *Participation (5%)*

You are expected to attend classes regularly and actively participate in discussions throughout the semester. Your participation will be evaluated using the rough rubric below.

Grade	Criteria
1	Present and not disruptive; does not participate in discussions; does not try to answer questions when called on; offers unconstructive comments.
3	Answers questions infrequently; tries to respond when called on but contributes moderately; demonstrates sporadic involvement in discussions.
5	Answers questions frequently; elaborates own points and provides constructive comments when called on; demonstrates ongoing active involvement.

Expectations:

You can expect me to:

- Challenge you to critical thinking and to understand the material.
- Engage you in the lecture and other activities to facilitate learning.
- Be available for office hours and return emails in a timely fashion, within 24 hours on weekdays and within 48 hours on weekends.
- Return written assignments, exercises, and exams in a week or less.

I expect you to:

- Come to class on time, pay attention, and be engaged.
- Be responsible for your learning- treat exercises and assignments seriously, submit them on time, and meet all important deadlines.
- Seek help from me whenever needed.

Course Policies

Extra Credit Policy:

Extra credit opportunities, if provided, are available to all students to ensure fairness. *Individual* requests of extra credit opportunities will be denied.

Civility:

Please be respectful to your professor and your fellow classmates.

Come to class on time.

Do not leave midway in the class. If you must leave early for a good reason or know you might need to go to the restroom during class, please sit near the door.

No text-messaging or playing with electronic devices during lecture.

No extended conversations with fellow classmates during class.

Emergency Contact

In case of family or medical emergencies, students should email me as soon as possible (chunbei.wang@ou.edu) to keep me informed and meet with me afterwards to discuss missed material or assignments.

Changes in the syllabus

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus if desirable or necessary and will inform you via email and in class.

University Policies

Academic Integrity:

The overall goal of this course is your learning. In order to demonstrate that you have reached this goal, the work you turn in needs to be your own. This includes putting written work into your own words and citing your sources, as appropriate to avoid plagiarism. If you work in a group, seek assistance from a tutor, use a resource on campus, and/or use online resources (including AI software), the work you turn in must be your own, demonstrating your own understanding of the material that you have gained through the learning process.

If you have questions about academic integrity or plagiarism, please ask: my aim is to foster an environment where you can learn and grow, while also maintaining academic honesty and a clear representation of your learning and ideas. Penalties for serious offenses include a zero on the assignment and egregious offenses can even result in expulsion from the university, so it is important to understand expectations. Visit the OU Integrity Office for more information on what constitutes plagiarism.

Religious Observance:

It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to reschedule examinations and additional required classwork that may fall on religious holidays, without penalty.

Reasonable Accommodation Policy:

The Accessibility and Disability Resource Center is committed to supporting students with disabilities to ensure that they are able to enjoy equal access to all components of their education. This includes your academics, housing, and community events. If you are experiencing a disability, a mental/medical health condition that has a significant impact on one or more life functions, you can receive accommodations to provide equal access. Possible disabilities include, but are not limited to, learning disabilities, AD(H)D, mental health, and chronic health. Additionally, we support students with temporary medical conditions (broken wrist, shoulder surgery, etc.) and pregnancy. To discuss potential accommodations, please contact the ADRC at 730 College Avenue, (ph.) 405.325.3852, or adrc@ou.edu.

Title IX Resources and Reporting Requirement:

Anyone who has been impacted by gender-based violence, including dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, harassment, and sexual assault, deserves access to resources so that they are supported personally and academically. The University of Oklahoma is committed to offering resources to those impacted, including: speaking with someone confidentially about your options, medical attention, counseling, reporting, academic support, and safety plans. If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, please contact OU Advocates (available 24/7 at 405-615-0013) or another confidential resource (see “Can I make an anonymous report?”). You may also choose to report gender-based violence and discrimination through other means, including by contacting the Institutional Equity Office (ieo@ou.edu, 405-325-3546) or police (911). Because the University of Oklahoma is committed to the safety of you and other students, I, as well as other faculty, Graduate Assistants, and Teaching Assistants, are mandatory reporters. This means that we are obligated to report gender-based violence that has been disclosed to us to the Institutional Equity Office. This includes disclosures that occur in: class discussion, writing assignments, discussion boards, emails and during Student/Office Hours. For more information, please visit the Institutional Equity Office.

Adjustments for Pregnancy/Childbirth Related Issues:

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact your professor or the Accessibility and Disability Resource Center at 405/325-3852 as soon as possible. Also, see the Institutional Equity Office FAQ on Pregnant and Parenting Students’ Rights for answers to commonly asked

questions.

Final Exam Preparation Period

Pre-finals week will be defined as the seven calendar days before the first day of finals. Faculty may cover new course material throughout this week. Please refer to OU's Final Exam Preparation Period policy for details.

Emergency Protocol:

During an emergency, there are official university procedures that will maximize your safety.

Severe Weather: If you receive an OU Alert to seek refuge or hear a tornado siren that signals severe weather.

1. Look for severe weather refuge location maps located inside most OU buildings near the entrances
2. Seek refuge inside a building. Do not leave one building to seek shelter in another building that you deem safer. If outside, get into the nearest building.
3. Go to the building's severe weather refuge location. If you do not know where that is, go to the lowest level possible and seek refuge in an innermost room. Avoid outside doors and windows.
4. Get in, Get Down, Cover Up
5. Wait for official notice to resume normal activities. Additional Weather Safety Information is available through the Department of Campus Safety.

Armed Subject/Campus Intruder:

If you receive an OU Alert to shelter-in-place due to an active shooter or armed intruder situation or you hear what you perceive to be gunshots:

1. Avoid: If you believe you can get out of the area WITHOUT encountering the armed individual, move quickly towards the nearest building exit, move away from the building, and call 911.
2. Deny: If you cannot flee, move to an area that can be locked or barricaded, turn off lights, silence devices, spread out, and formulate a plan of attack if the shooter enters the room.
3. Defend: As a last resort fight to defend yourself. Visit OU's Emergency Preparedness site.

Fire Alarm/General Emergency:

If you receive an OU Alert that there is danger inside or near the building, or the fire alarm inside the building activates: 1. LEAVE the building. Do not use the elevators. 2. KNOW at least two building exits 3. ASSIST those that may need help 4. PROCEED to the emergency assembly area 5. ONCE safely outside, NOTIFY first responders of anyone that may still be inside building due to mobility issues. 6. WAIT for official notice before attempting to re-enter.

Mental Health Support Services:

If you are experiencing any mental health issues, counseling is available at the University Counseling Center (Goddard Health Center) Phone: (405) 325-2911.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Week	Date	Topic
1	Jan 17 T	Syllabus
	Jan 19 Th	Economics Tools (Ch. 1 and Appendix)
2	Jan 24 T	Economics Tools (Ch. 1 and Appendix) cont.
	Jan 26 Th	Overview of recent changes (Ch. 2)
3	Jan 31 T	Allocation of Time between Family and Work (Ch.3 & 4)
	Feb 2 Th	Allocation of Time between Family and Work (Ch.3 & 4) cont.
4	Feb 7 T	Labor Supply Decisions (Ch. 5 & 6)
	Feb 9 Th	Labor Supply Decisions (Ch. 5 & 6) cont.
5	Feb 14 T	Labor Supply Decisions (Ch. 5 & 6) cont.
	Feb 16 Th	Labor Supply Decisions (Ch. 5 & 6) cont.
6	Feb 21 T	Review
	Feb 23 Th	Exam I
7	Feb 28 T	Group Project #1 Due
		Group 1 Present Topic 1
		Group 2 Present Topic 2
	Mar 2 Th	Labor Market Outcomes - Gender Differences (Ch 7, 9, 10)
8	Mar 7 T	Labor Market Outcomes - The Human Capital Model (Ch 8)
	Mar 9 Th	Labor Market Outcomes - The Human Capital Model (Ch 8) cont.
9	Mar 14 T	Spring Break
	Mar 16 Th	
10	Mar 21 T	Labor Market Outcomes - Discrimination (Ch 11, 12)
	Mar 23 Th	Labor Market Outcomes - Discrimination (Ch 11, 12) cont.
11	Mar 28 T	Labor Market Outcomes - Discrimination (Ch 11, 12) cont.
	Mar 30 Th	Labor Market Outcomes - Discrimination (Ch 11, 12) cont.
12	Apr 4 T	Review
	Apr 6 Th	Exam II
13	Apr 11 T	Group Project #2 Due
		Group 3 Present Topic 3
		Group 4 Present Topic 4
	Apr 13 Th	Discrimination Policies
14	Apr 18 T	Economics of Family (Ch 13, 14, 15, 16)
	Apr 20 Th	Economics of Family (Ch 13, 14, 15, 16) cont.
15	Apr 25 T	Economics of Family (Ch 13, 14, 15, 16) cont.
	Apr 27 Th	Economics of Family (Ch 13, 14, 15, 16) cont.
16	May 2 T	Economics of Family (Ch 13, 14, 15, 16) cont.
	May 4 Th	Group Project #3 Due
		Group 5 Present Topic 5
		Group 6 Present Topic 6
17	Final Week	Final Exam: May 10 Wednesday 8-10 am