

Econ 1104
Fall 2021
Dr. Yang

Economics of Gender (CRN: 84067)

This class will introduce you to causes and consequences of gender differences in economic outcomes. We will focus on US institutions and issues in this class.

Text: The following book is the main text. We may also periodically assign journal articles.

Required Text:

Hoffman, Saul and Averett, Susan. Women and the Economy: Family, Work and Pay.
Macmillan International Higher Education, 2015, 408 pages.

The textbook may be purchased online, and we won't need it until after the midterm exam. (There's a new edition now available on the market, but the 2015 edition listed above is good enough, and it's cheaper.) Journal articles will generally be available via the web.

Web Page: I'll be using Canvas for class administration.

Prerequisites: This is a 1000 level undergraduate course that helps students fulfill their pathway requirement in Social Sciences/Economics. The content of this course is self-contained. That is, no previous exposure to economics is required, and economic tools will be introduced as needed throughout the course.

Requirements:

Reading: Please read the assigned book chapters or articles before each class.

For the first part of the course, which is about basic microeconomics, Readings are in the folder "Readings_Microecon" in the Canvas "Files". These are summary slides provided by publisher

Exams: There will be one midterm exam and one final exam. The midterm counts for 35% of your course grade. The midterm is scheduled for **Wednesday 09/29**.

The final exam is scheduled to be on **Wednesday, December 15, 2021**. The final exam is **non-cumulative** and covers the materials after the midterm. The final counts for 50% of your course grade

There are also two **practice problem sets**, one before the midterm and the other before the final. These practice problems are intended to help you prepare for the exams. Your grade on these

practice problems are assigned based **entirely on completion**. These two practice problems count for a total of 15% of your course grade

SSD Accommodations

Students with test-taking or other types of accommodations from the Dean of Students should contact me and give me the appropriate paperwork **two weeks prior to the midterm exam (i.e., Wednesday, 09/15)** in order for me to be able to make arrangements for midterm and/or final. Once you take an exam without accommodation there is no remedy for a poor grade.

I expect that each student will stay informed about further information or changes in due dates and assignments. Changes will be announced in class and posted on the "class announcements" section of Canvas. The exam dates are fixed and will not change; you can expect that there will be changes and updates to reading assignments.

Academic Conduct: You may obtain tutoring for this course, and you may work on homework together. **The purchase or sale of class materials is prohibited. You are also prohibited from sharing class materials (including slides, lecture videos, homework assignments, etc) with anybody not registered for this course.** All students are expected to comply with the honor code. You are further charged with reporting any suspected honor code violations by other students in the course.

THE NEW HONOR SYSTEM STATEMENT:

The Undergraduate Honor Code pledge that each member of the university community agrees to abide by states:

“As a Hokie, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”

Students enrolled in this course are responsible for abiding by the Honor Code. A student who has doubts about how the Honor Code applies to any assignment is responsible for obtaining specific guidance from the course instructor before submitting the assignment for evaluation. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the University community from the requirements and expectations of the Honor Code. Academic integrity expectations are the same for online classes as they are for in person classes. All university policies and procedures apply in any Virginia Tech academic environment.

For additional information about the Honor Code, please visit: <https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/>

In addition:

1. All assignments submitted shall be considered “graded work” and all aspects of your coursework are covered by the Honor Code. All projects and homework assignments are to be completed individually unless otherwise specified.
2. The Academic Integrity expectations for Hokies are the same in an online class as they are in an in-person class. Hokies are expected to meet the academic integrity standards at Virginia Tech at all times.
3. Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute academic misconduct. This listing is not, however, exclusive of other acts that may reasonably be said to constitute academic misconduct. Clarification is provided for each definition with some examples of prohibited behaviors in the Undergraduate Honor Code Manual located at <https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/>
 - **CHEATING:** Cheating includes the intentional use of unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise, or attempts thereof.
 - **PLAGIARISM:** Plagiarism includes the copying of the language, structure, programming, computer code, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and passing off the same as one's own original work, or attempts thereof.
 - **FALSIFICATION:** Falsification includes the statement of any untruth, either verbally or in writing, with respect to any element of one's academic work, or attempts thereof.
 - **FABRICATION:** Fabrication includes making up data and results, and recording or reporting them, or submitting fabricated documents, or attempts thereof.
 - **MULTIPLE SUBMISSION:** Multiple submission involves the submission for credit – without authorization from the instructor receiving the work – of substantial portions of any work (including oral reports) previously submitted for credit at any academic institution of attempts thereof.
 - **COMPLICITY:** Complicity includes intentionally helping another to engage in an act of academic misconduct, or attempts thereof.
 - **VIOLATION OF UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, DEPARTMENTAL, PROGRAM, COURSE, OR FACULTY RULES:** The violation of any University, College, Departmental, Program, Course, or Faculty Rules relating to academic matters that may lead to an unfair academic advantage by the student violating the rule(s).

My Own Weekly Office Hours
(Thursdays from 5:30pm-6:45pm)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/86799424018?pwd=UFd4T3VweVRmRy91Mms4YXY3dTV4dz09>

Meeting ID: 867 9942 4018

Passcode: 753560

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,86799424018# US (New York)

+13017158592,,86799424018# US (Washington DC)

I will also hold extra office hours prior to the exams

My TA's Weekly Office Hours

My TA this semester is Yichuan Cai. His weekly office hours are on Monday from 8:00pm-9:00pm. He will send announcement on Canvas about his office hours. His email is cyc@vt.edu. Please contact him by email if you have questions on homework assignments or other related issues, but can't make it to his office hours.

Class Absences: I will **not** be taking regular attendance. For those who miss the lectures, I will upload lecture slides as well as pre-recorded lecture videos on a weekly basis. These videos are not the recording of our actual lectures for this semester, but are very similar in terms of course content

MASK POLICY:

Virginia Tech is committed to providing students with in-person curricular and co-curricular experiences during the fall semester. To that end, VT has required that both instructors and students, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear face coverings in all classrooms and laboratories when classes begin August 23. VT considers the upholding of the university's guidance for health and safety protocols under the conditions of COVID-19, including the updated [masking mandate for indoor spaces](#) to be essential to maintaining a positive learning environment.

As a member of VT faculty, I am obligated to maintain a positive learning environment in the classroom. Section [Section 9.9: Classroom Conduct](#) of the Faculty Handbook states "Maintaining a good learning environment in the classroom is an important part of a faculty member's responsibility as a teacher. Disruptive classroom conduct on the part of some students may be distracting, annoying, or intimidating to other students, and should not be tolerated by the teacher."

As such, **wearing a mask to cover both your nose and mouth will be required in the classroom for the entire duration of the class** until otherwise indicated by VT policy which follows the VDH health guidelines. Those without masks will be asked to leave the classroom until they can secure a mask upon which time they may return to the classroom. Any material missed due to failure to wear a mask will be the responsibility of the student.

Note: Face shields alone do not offer the same level of protection as masks and therefore are not approved for use in instructional spaces.

Finally, as indicated by the mask-wearing requirement, no food or any kind of drink is allowed during the class. This can be stated in the syllabus. Please also see <https://www.registrar.vt.edu/faculty-staff/Room-Reservations.html>
“10. Food and Drink No food or drink is allowed in any of the academic classrooms or auditoriums.”

How to reach me:

My email is zyang74@vt.edu and this is the best way to reach me. Office hours are TBA. Check announcements on Canvas for any changes to my office hours.

Email Policy

When you email me, please include 'Econ 1104' in the subject line. I'm teaching multiple courses this semester, so it's very important for you to include the course number in email communications.

Policy for Missed Exams: There will not be any make-up midterm exams. Anyone who missed an exam without being excused will get a score of zero for that exam. The only acceptable reasons for missing an exam are a serious illness and family emergency. In order to be excused, you need to get your reason for missing the exam approved either by the Dean of Student's Office (for a family emergency), Schiffert Health Center (for physical illness) or Cook Counseling Center (for mental health issues). Scholarship athletes with competition-related conflicts need to bring me official documentation prior to the exam. If you have appropriately approved excused absence from an exam, then I will either give you a make-up exam or weigh your other exams more heavily, depending on the circumstances and my best judgment. In particular, job interviews, field trips from other courses, and sports competition from non-scholarship sports are NOT acceptable reasons for missing an exam. The notes that Schiffert distributes that indicate that you went to the clinic are not acceptable documentation – I need documentation that indicates that you were too ill to take the exam.

****Note that you have to have a final exam grade to earn a grade in this course.***

Weather Policy:

If the University is officially closed on the day of an exam or case discussion, the exam or discussion will be held during the next scheduled class. Example: if the University is closed on a Friday with a scheduled midterm, the exam will be held the next Monday. The same policy applies to homework. If the University is closed, any outside-of-class review session is automatically canceled. Note that canceling an exam review does NOT mean that the day of the exam will change. If the University is open, class will meet.

Tentative Topics List

0. Basic Economic Theories: Thinking like an Economist
1. Tools and Techniques in Applied Microeconomic Analysis
2. Family and Labor Market
3. Women and Labor Force Participation
4. Earning Differentials by Gender
5. Evaluation of Employment and Wage Policies