

**Department of Economics
Colorado State University**

**EC 211: Gender in the Economy
Spring 2006
Section 004
TR 11:00 – 12:15
149 Gifford**

**Professor: Dr. Elissa Braunstein
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Office hours: T 1:30 – 3:30 (or by appointment)**

Course Objectives

The objectives of this course are (1) to show that gender as a social category (like race, ethnicity and class) is relevant to the study of the economy; (2) to gain an understanding of some of the ways in which the economy is gendered; (3) to examine gender in a global economic context; and (4) to think about alternative approaches to economics that would promote economic and social justice for women and men.

Readings

The majority of readings for the course are book chapters and articles that are available on E-reserve at the Morgan Library. Other readings that are downloadable elsewhere are indicated by their internet address. Students are expected to read these before the class for which they are assigned. In addition we will be reading two books:

Ellen Mutari and Deborah Figart (eds.) 2003. *Women and the Economy: A Reader*. Armonk, NY and London, England: M.E. Sharpe.

Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Hochschild (eds.) 2003. *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*. Metropolitan Books.

Course Assignments

Note: This class is meant to be participatory. The material is more conducive to discussion than simple lecture presentation. Doing the readings before coming to class provides a basis of knowledge for class discussions.

1. Participation in class discussions

Classes will be partly lecture and partly discussion of the readings on which the lecture is based. I expect you to read the assigned reading before coming to class. Each student is expected to participate in at least **five class discussions** (not including the classes where we are discussing the Ehrenreich/Hochschild book). Participation may take the form of a question, comment, or answer to a question. It is your responsibility to come up after class and remind me that you talked so I can record your participation. The maximum number of points for participation is 100 – that is 20 points for each class in which you participate in the discussion.

2. Exams
There will be two exams; they will not be cumulative. The questions will be a combination of short answer questions and essay questions. Each exam will be worth 150 points.
3. Book Discussion
There will be class discussion of one book. The discussion will take place over two class periods and everyone is expected to participate at least once in the discussion of the book. Participation will be worth 25 points.
4. Writing assignment
There will be one short writing assignment on a topic of your choice that is pertinent to the class. You will be required to OK the topic with me by Tuesday, March 7. The assignment will involve doing some research on the topic, and you should have at least two references (website content does not count as a reference). Length is approximately four pages, typed and double-spaced. The paper will be due on Thursday, April 27. The writing assignment is worth 100 points.
5. Extra credit
Two times during the semester you may hand in a one-page typed double-spaced response paper to any of the assigned readings. These are due the same day for which the reading is assigned. Each extra credit paper is worth a potential of 10 points, for a possible total of 20 points.
- In addition, you may earn another 10 points of extra credit for turning in three discussion questions for *Global Woman*. These will be due Monday, April 17 by noon so that I will have time to organize them for class discussion that week. Emailing them to me is fine.

Class expectations

- Read the syllabus
You are required to read the syllabus and to make yourself aware of all the requirements and deadlines associated with this course.
- Films
We will view a number of films throughout the course of semester as indicated on the syllabus. You may be asked to reflect on film content in an exam, so I would suggest that you take notes during films and our discussions of them. If you miss a film, you can talk to me about making arrangements to see it.
- Late assignments/scheduling conflicts
Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned day. Late assignments will be penalized.
- Scheduling & exams
There will be no early exams given unless an official excuse with official documentation is presented (i.e. medical or family emergency or official athletic excuse). It is your responsibility to discuss any schedule conflicts with me individually at least two weeks before the exam.

Honesty	I should be expected to behave with honesty and integrity and you are expected to behave in the same way. Any evidence of academic dishonesty will be passed on to the Office of Student Affairs for investigation and possible disciplinary action.
Respect	I should be expected to behave respectfully toward you and you should be expected to behave in the same way toward me and your fellow students. The subject matter in this class is often sensitive and many of us have strong feelings about some issues. We all need to practice compassionate listening to others even when their views may be diametrically opposed to our own and we need to think about what we say before we speak. We will all learn more and feel more comfortable expressing our own views in a respectful environment.

Course grades

Grades for the course will be determined by the following:

General class participation (5*20)	100 points
Exams (2*150)	300 points
Book discussion	25 points
Writing assignment	100 points

Total **525 points**

Letter grades are assigned on a straight scale: A is 90-100 percent, B is 80-89 percent, C is 70-79 percent, D is 60-69 percent, and F is 59 percent or less. +/- will be assigned at the discretion of the professor.

Class Schedule

Interdisciplinary introduction to gender and introduction to economics

T 1/17	Introduction to the course & the meaning of gender Reading: Julia Wood, <i>Gendered Lives: Communication, Gender and Culture</i> , United States: Wadsworth, 2001, pp 16-30, 38-61
R 1/19	Introduction to Economics Reading: Gregory Mankiw, <i>Principles of Economics</i> , U.S.: Thomson, Chapters 1 & 2, pp. 3-35. “Feminist Principles of Economics,” Schneider and Schackelford, available online at www.facstaff.bucknell.edu/gschnedr/FemPrppls.htm
T 1/24	Video: <i>Who’s Counting – Marilyn Waring on Sex, Lies & Global Economics</i>
R 1/26	Video continued & Discussion
T 1/31	Introduction to Feminist Economics Reading: Nelson, “Gender and Economics,” in <i>Feminism, Objectivity and Economics</i> , London and New York: Routledge, 1996, pp. 20-38. “Separative and Soluble Selves: Dichotomous Thinking in Economics.” Pp. 33-59. In <i>Feminist Economics Today</i> , edited by Julie Nelson and Marianne Ferber. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Consumerism

- R 2/2 **“Rational Economic Man”:** Relationship between consumption & well-being
Reading: Goodwin et.al., Chapter 10, “Consumption and the Consumer Society” in *Microeconomics in Context*, pp. 226-250.
- T 2/7 **Selling Sex in Advertising; Images of Femininity and Masculinity**
Video: *Killing Us Softly III*, 2000
- R 2/9 **Sex in the Media and Popular Culture: Images of masculinity & femininity**
Video: *Tough Guise: Violence, Media, and the Crisis in Masculinity*, 1999
- T 2/14 **Discussion of *Tough Guise***
- Labor Markets, Family and Work*
- R 2/16 **Background on paid labor**
Reading: Mutari and Figart (eds.), Chapters 4, 5 & 7
- T 2/21 **Work in the paid labor market**
Reading: Blau, Ferber and Winkler, Ch. 5 “Differences in Occupations and Earnings: Overview” in *The Economics of Women, Men and Work*, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2006.
Video: *Fast Food Women*
- R 2/23 **Work, motherhood and social reproduction**
Reading: Mutari and Figart (eds.) Chapters 8, 9, 10
- T 2/28 **Care Work**
Reading: M.V. Lee Badgett and Nancy Folbre, “Assigning Care: Gender norms and economic outcomes,” *International Labour Review*, 138(3): 311-326, 1999
- R 3/2 **Economic theories of marriage and the marriage market**
Reading: Elaine McCrate, “Trade, Merger and Employment: Economic Theory on Marriage,” in Nancy Folbre (ed.) *The Economics of the Family*. 1996.
John Schwartz, “Glass Ceilings at Altar as Well as Boardroom,” *New York Times*, Dec. 14, 2004.
Maureen Dowd, “Men Just Want Mommy,” *New York Times*, Jan. 13, 2005.
- T 3/7 **Paper discussion (paper topic due) & mid-term review**
- R 3/9 **Mid-term exam**
- T 3/14, R 3/16 **Spring Break**
- T 3/21 **Explaining gender differences in the paid labor market**
Reading: Mutari and Figart (eds.), Chapters 13, 17, 19
- R 3/23 **Gender, Race and Employment**
Reading: Mutari and Figart, Chapters 14 & 16
Marlene Kim, “Has the Race Penalty for Black Women Disappeared in the United States?” in *Feminist Economics* 8(2): 115-124, 2002.

T 3/28 **Income and Poverty**
Reading: Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute, "Poverty Despite Work in Colorado,"
available at www.cclponline.org/pubs/pdw.pdf
Randy Albelda and Chris Tilly, "Who's Poor? Patterns of Poverty," Ch. 1 in
Glass Ceilings and Bottomless Pits: Women's Work, Women's Poverty,
Boston: South End Press, 1997, pp. 19-32.
Mutari and Figart (eds.), Chapter 21.

R 3/30 **The U.S. Welfare System and support for families**
Randy Albelda, "Fallacies of Welfare-to-Work Policies," in *Lost Ground:
Welfare Reform, Poverty and Beyond*, Randy Albelda and Ann Withorn
(eds.), Cambridge: South End Press, pp. 79-94.

T 4/4 **Video: *Take It From Me***

Women and Globalization

R 4/6 **Conceptualizing the Global Economy**
Diane Elson, "The Economic, the Political and the Domestic: Businesses, States
and Households in the Organisation of Production," *New Political Economy*
3(2): 189-208.

T 4/11 Video: *Rich World, Poor Women*

R 4/13 **Gender & Trade**
Reading: Nilufer Cagatay, *Trade Gender and Poverty*, Background Paper for
the United Nations Development Programme, 2001, Available at:
www.undp.org/poverty/docs/pov_tradegenderpoverty_doc.pdf

T 4/18 **Book Discussion** – Ehrenreich and Hochschild (eds.) *Global Woman: Nannies,
Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*, Metropolitan Books, 2003.

R 4/20 **Book Discussion** – Ehrenreich and Hochschild (eds.) *Global Woman: Nannies,
Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*, Metropolitan Books, 2003.

T 4/25 **Video: *Shackled Women: Abuses in a Patriarchal World***

R 4/27 **RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

Human Rights

Reading: Moller Okin, "Feminism, Women's Rights and Cultural Differences,"
in Narayan and Harding (eds.) *Decentering the Center: Philosophy for a
Multicultural, Postcolonial, Feminist World*, 2000, pp. 26-46.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

www.un.org/Overview/rights.html

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

Mutari and Figart, ch. 29 or www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw

T 5/2 Video: *Hope is a Literate Woman*

R 5/4 Review for final

T 5/9 ****To be confirmed**
Exam 2
11:20 am – 1:20 pm, in this room