

**Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies**  
**Economics of Gender**  
**ECON 3709**  
**Fall 2020**

**Course instructor(s):**

Prof. Berta Esteve-Volart

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Teaching Assistant: TBA

**Technical requirements for taking the course:**

Several platforms will be used in this course (e.g., eClass, Zoom, etc.) through which students will interact with the course materials, the course director/TA, as well as with one another. Please review this course outline to determine how the class meets, and how office hours will be conducted.

Students shall note the following:

- Zoom is hosted on servers in the U.S. This includes recordings done through Zoom.
- If you have privacy concerns about your data, provide only your first name or a nickname when you join a session.
- The system is configured in a way that all participants are automatically notified when a session is being recorded. In other words, a session cannot be recorded without you knowing about it.

Please review the [technology requirements for eClass](#).

In order to fully participate in your course, you will need access to a stable, higher-speed Internet connection.

Here are some useful links for student computing information, resources and help:

[Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)

[Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)

[Computing for Students Website](#)

[Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)

To determine Internet connection and speed, there are online tests, such as [Speedtest](#), that can be run.

**Times and locations:**

Please note that this is a course that depends on remote teaching and learning. There will be no in-person interactions or activities on campus.

**Organization of the course**

The lectures for this course will be held synchronously, during the regularly scheduled

class times. That is, I will be teaching on **Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00-11:30am (EST)**.

I will be teaching using Zoom. Please download Zoom to follow the lectures.

To accommodate students who may be unable to attend live sessions, I will record all live sessions and make them available for student viewing.

The tests for this course will be held during the regularly scheduled class times.

Every lecture is 90 minutes long, but will be broken into several segments to allow for short breaks involving other activities.

**Course webpage:** eClass

**Virtual office hours:**

I will be having a Zoom virtual office hour for student meetings/consultations every Wednesday at 10:00-11:00am (EST). If that time does not work for you, we can also arrange for office hours at a mutually convenient time—please let me know by email.

During my Wednesday 10:00-11:00am virtual office hour, I will be attending students on a first come first serve basis.

**Expanded course description:** This course introduces students to gender gaps and discrimination, especially in connection with labour markets, policy towards gender equality, and other features of family economics, such as marital transfers and issues of power within the family. The course examines evidence from developed countries (especially the U.S.) as well as developing countries. You will read papers from academic journals involving data analysis and obtaining empirical evidence, and we will discuss models that may be able to explain the evidence.

**Course objectives and learning outcomes:**

(1) **Brief statement of the purpose:**

The purpose of this course is to assist students in developing the tools to analyze gender inequality using economic theories and empirical evidence. We will use some statistical tools in order to examine the sources of gender gaps.

(2) **Brief list of specific learning outcomes of the course:**

The specific outcomes of the course are that students will be able to:

- Use statistical concepts to examine empirical evidence
- Use microeconomic theory to understand optimal choice in a gender context, such as intrahousehold allocation
- Understand the difference between correlation and causation in the context of gender economics
- Understand the facts around gender inequality, patterns and determinants
- Write a creative research paper regarding a specific gender difference of their choice

## Course readings

The textbook for this course is:

Blau, Francine D. and Anne Winkler (2017), *The Economics of Women, Men and Work* (8<sup>th</sup> edition), Oxford University Press

There will also be readings from academic journals and other sources – **please check the Syllabus** for a complete list (posted on eClass, Topic 1).

## Evaluation

Assessment	Due date	Value (% of final grade)
Research Paper	Last day of class (December 8)	35
Test 1	October 6	20
Test 2	November 10	20
Final exam	December TBA	25

## Course policies

There will be no makeup tests for this course. If you miss either of the tests, the weight of the test will be shifted to the final exam. I strongly encourage all students to take both tests as historically students taking the tests have done significantly better.

To promote academic integrity in this course, students will be required to **submit their Research Paper to Turnitin** (via the course eClass) for a review of textual similarity and the detection of possible plagiarism. In so doing, students will allow their material to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used only for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin service are described on the Turnitin.com website.

You will have to agree on a topic with me for the Research Paper. The **deadline for agreeing on a topic with me is Tuesday, October 6**. Please refer to the document "Research Paper Instructions" for detailed instructions regarding the Research Paper in eClass (Topic 1).

Students who submit their Research Paper late will be subject to a penalty.

The **grading scheme** for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). (For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - <http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2010-2011/academic/index.htm>)

## Academic honesty and integrity

In this course, we strive to maintain academic integrity to the highest extent possible. Please familiarize yourself with the meaning of academic integrity by completing SPARK's Academic Integrity module at the beginning of the course. Breaches of academic integrity range from cheating to plagiarism (i.e., the improper crediting of another's work, the representation of another's ideas as your own, etc.). All instances of academic dishonesty in this course will be reported to the appropriate university authorities, and can be punishable according to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty.

### **Schedule of readings and activities**

Please note the following [important dates](#) for the Fall 2020 term:

- For both full-year (Y) and Fall-term (F) courses, classes will start on September 9, 2020.
- Reading Week will occur between October 10 and 16, 2020 in the Fall term.
- The last date to submit term work is December 9 in the Fall term. December 9 is also a Fall Study Day.
- The formal exam period in the Fall will run from December 9 to 23, 2020.