COURSE SYLLABUS: Economics of Gender and Race  
E408 TR 6:00 - 7:15 p.m., Neff 355

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Hedayeh Samavati

OFFICE: Neff 340E

OFFICE HOURS: M: 1:00 - 2:00 pm; TR 11:00 - 12:00 and by appointment.

OFFICE PHONE: 260-481-6487

E-MAIL: SAMAVATI@IPFW.EDU

TEXTBOOKS:


*Throughout the semester, there will also be various handouts. Some will be required reading, some for your perusal. The difference will be indicated.*
COURSE PREREQUISITES: Econ E200, or Econ E201 or approval of instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the patterns of employment, unemployment, earnings, occupations, income, hours of work, poverty and other measures of economic well being. The socially constructed categories of gender, race-ethnicity, and class are used as a conceptual framework to understand the emerging patterns of economic-well being. The theoretical explanations offered by neoclassical economics as well as political economy will be explored to understand work, wages and discrimination. The course emphasis is on contemporary American society. However, students are encouraged to study cross-cultural differences and similarities utilizing the analytical methods learned in the course.

WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM GOALS:

1. To analyze academic disciplines from a feminist and antiracist perspective.
2. To encourage original scholarship and research about women that takes into consideration gender, race, class and sexual orientation.
3. To integrate self-exploration with academic skills.
4. To provide a nonauthoritarian learning environment which values ideas and encourages an open exchange of information and opinion.
5. To promote an individual and critical approach to learning.
6. To promote knowledge of the diversity of women's experiences.

Myth

Long afterward, Oedipus, old and blinded, walked the roads. He smelled a familiar smell. It was Sphinx. Oedipus said, “I want to ask one question. Why didn’t I recognize my mother?” “You gave the wrong answer,” said the Sphinx. “But that was what made everything possible,” said Oedipus. “No,” She said. “When I asked, what walks on four legs in the morning, two at noon, and three in the evening, you answered, Man. You didn’t say anything about woman.” “When you say Man,” said Oedipus, “you include woman too. Everyone knows that.” She said, “That’s what you think.”

COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Issues in Economics of Gender
   1. Introduction, Jacobsen, Chapter 1, pp. 3-22. (*ReserveExpress*)
   2. Two Views on Inequality and Discrimination, Albelda et. al. Chapter 1, pp. 3-11.

II. Economic Differences by Gender and Race

III. Economics, Method and Gender
   1. The Basics of Neoclassical Economics, Albelda et. al., Chapter 3, pp. 43-63.
   2. The Basics of Political Economy, Albelda et. al., Chapter 6, pp. 121-147.

IV. Market, Work and Discrimination
   1. Work and Wages in the Neoclassical Model, Albelda et. al. Chapter 4, pp. 64-83.
   2. Discrimination in the Neoclassical View, Albelda et. al., Chapter 5, pp. 85-117.
   3. Work and Wages in the Political Economy, Albelda et. al., Chapter 7, pp. 148-175.

V. Cultural Constructs of Gender Discrimination
   1. The Binds that Tie, Chapter 1, pp. 3-21, Jamieson
   2. Double Bind Number One: Womb/Brain, Chapter 3, pp. 53-76, Jamieson.
   4. Double Bind Number Four: Femininity/Competence, Chapter 6, pp. 120-145, Jamieson.
EXAMINATION AND GRADING POLICY:

Your performance in the following categories with their respective weights is the determinant of your grade in the course.

1. Participation in class discussions with preparation of readings  30%
2. Midterm examination 20%
3. Research Paper, 7-10 pages, due Weeks 10-12 30%
4. Final Examination 20%

The following guidelines will be used to determine letter grades:

A = 90% - 100%
B = 80% - 89%
C = 70% - 79%
D = 60% - 69%
F = Less than 60%

ATTENDANCE:

Up to four misses: no penalty; 5 to 8 misses: half a grade; 9 or more misses: one letter grade.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

This course requires active involvement and participation of all students in discussing the topics that are covered in the course. Therefore, students should complete assigned readings before coming to class and be prepared to take part in class discussions. The class will be divided into study/research teams. Every week one or two team(s) will be responsible for leading the discussion of reading material. Discussion leaders should meet well in advance of the class session(s) and plan their duties for the session. Organizing the class discussion should include posing questions with respect to the content of reading material, presenting a critical review of the assigned reading for the week, and relating material to one’s observations and experiences.

The discussion leading team will need to prepare a list of questions to help sharpen the focus of other students as they do the reading. The questions should provide a basis for organizing class discussion. These questions must be prepared and distributed to the rest of students at least one week in advance of the discussion session.

Discussion is an integral part of learning in this course. Because some issues
discussed and the methods of analysis will be controversial and the class participants may differ in their view points, disagreements may be inevitable. However, we all must treat one another with respect. Everyone must be ensured that the classroom is a safe place for frank and open discourse. In short, freedom of expression must be honored and tolerance of differing view points must be exercised.

In addition, grades for class participation/discussion will be decided by the students and my self with equal weight. That is, every student will have the opportunity to evaluate/rate one's own performance as well as performance of each teammate & classmate in terms of quality of participation in getting different class projects done. To determine the grade for class discussion & preparation and the grade for paper, the average rating provided by the students will weigh equally with the instructor assessment of performance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Help available at the IPFW Writing Center. You can improve your writing through free individual conferences with experienced writing consultants in Kettler Hall Room 22, the Writing Center- an excellent resource for all writers. Take assignments, questions, ideas, and drafts to the Writing Center. The staff will help you brainstorm, develop, and logically organize your ideas, and work on issues of meaning, style, and editing. Because it takes time to present ideas clearly in writing, go early and go often to review your work at the Writing Center. Sign up for appointments ahead of time on the board outside Kettler Room G22. Also, you can get online assistance and access much valuable information from their cite. The Writing center's Web address is: http://www.ipfw.edu/academics/support/writing.shtml

- The research paper that you are required to write for this course should be between 7-10 pages and its topic should be relevant to the economics of gender and race. The research team must meet with me to discuss the topic of the paper and obtain my approval no later than the fourth week of February. The topic can be chosen from the suggested list that I will distribute or a topic of your choice generated by your fertile imagination.