

Economics 382: Economics of Work, Marriage and the Family

Fall 2011

Professor: Dr. Shoshana Grossbard

Office: Nasatir Hall 329

Meeting: Mo We 16:00 to 17:15

Prerequisite: Econ 101 or 102 at SDSU, or its equivalent

Contact with Instructor: via Email: shosh@mail.sdsu.edu; Office hours: **Mo Wed 11: to 12:45 and Monday 5:15 to 6:15** at Nasatir Hall Room 329; you can call me during my office hours at 619 594 5468. Come visit, ask me questions, and help me practice my French, Dutch, Hebrew, and Spanish!! More about me at <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/faculty/sgs/>

This Course: 1. Is in the spirit of freakonomics (<http://www.freakonomics.com/blog/>): it addresses out-of-the ordinary applications of economic analysis. It includes applications of price theory or microeconomics. There is little reference to macroeconomics.
2. Explores important questions, including: why do people marry or live together? why do women have kids without living with a partner? Poverty and families. What should be the role of government in matters of family? What are the effects of marriage markets? Who dates whom?
3. Offers new insights on popular culture.
4. Uses microeconomic tools (including optimization by consumers and labor market analysis) and, to a limited degree, statistical and demographic tools.
5. Includes an international perspective

Main ways of Getting Information:

- Lectures
- Blackboard (Bb): When you officially enroll in this class at SDSU, you are automatically enrolled in the class Blackboard website. **To login**, use the same information you use to access WebLine. Your **username** is your Student ID (no dashes) and your **password** is your University PIN. If you don't know your Student ID number or wish to change your University PIN, please contact SDSU e-services at <http://www.sdsu.edu/e-services/>. PIN changes will be recognized by Blackboard within 24 hours.
- Readings. Principal source of readings is a textbook: Hoffman and Averett (H&A), *Women and the Economy*, second edition. A custom edition excluding 4 chapters is for sale at the Aztec bookstore. It should be priced at not more than 80\$ (The full book costs 130\$ on line!). Students are also expected to read a few chapters out of *Marriage and the Economy* (MAE) edited by Shoshana Grossbard-Shechtman, Cambridge U Press, 2003, as well as other readings.

Assessment and Grading

Your grade in the course is determined as follows:

Powerpoint Presentation at end of semester	20 %
Two exams including essays (30% each)	60 %
Multiple choice test	10%

The presentation will consist of powerpoint slides to be prepared by a group of students. Prior to presentation, groups need to give professor a brief report that includes the text of the slides, some background and sources, and attributes credit to each member who worked on a particular slide. More instructions to follow.

Class participation is based both on attendance and active and informed participation in class discussions. Students are encouraged to bring supplementary materials pertaining to the materials studied.

Any request for grade change, whether related to an exam or assignment, will have to be submitted to me in writing, clearly indicating the question and the rationale/ argument behind your request.

A detailed calendar will be distributed after classes start.

TOPICS AND READINGS

I. Introduction to the Course H&A Chapter 1; Introduction to *Marriage and the Economy* (MAE) edited by Shoshana Grossbard-Shechtman, Cambridge U Press, 2003.

II. Economic Tools H&A Chapter 2

III. Marriage, Cohabitation, and Divorce: an Economic Approach

H&A Chapters 3 and 4

Chapter on divorce by Evelyn Lehrer in MAE (*Marriage and the Economy*)

MV Lee Badgett, Gary Gates and Natalya Maisel, "Registered domestic partnerships among gay men and lesbians: the role of economic factors." *Review of Economics of the Household*, December 2008.

IV. Fertility

H&A Chapters 5 and 6

V. Women at Work

H&A Chapter 7

Leisure/work debate on



<http://freakonomics.blogs.nytimes.com/2007/06/11/another-economist-heard-from-in-the-leisurework-debate/> and article by Dubner and Levitt that this responded to.



[Labour force participation of women and « marriage market » in the USA \(English\)](#)

VI. Household Finances

Chapter 5 in MAE by Woolley

Shoshana Grossbard, Jens Bonke and Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes. “Income Pooling, Household Production and the Price of Maids” Working Paper, August 2010

VII. Poverty, Taxes and Social Security

H&A Chapters 12 and 13

VIII. Family Policy

H&A Chapter 14

[PERSPECTIVE ARTICLE: The impact of Nordic countries’ family friendly policies on employment, wages, and children](#) by [Nabanita Datta Gupta](#), [Nina Smith](#) and [Mette Verner](#), Review of Economics of the Household, Volume 6, Number 1 / March, 2008

Shoshana Grossbard, J Ignacio Gimenez and J Alberto Molina. "[Racial Discrimination and Household Chores](#)" IZA Discussion Paper No. 5345, Nov. 2010.

IX. Work and Family in Developing Countries

H&A Chapter 15

Amyra Grossbard-Shechtman. "[The Economics of Polygamy](#)" in J. DaVanzo and J. Simon (eds.), *Research in Population Economics*, Vol. II. Greenwich, CT: JAI Press, 1980.

David Bishai and Shoshana Grossbard. “Far Above Rubies: The Association between Bride Price and Extramarital Sexual Relations in Uganda”, *J of Population Economics* 23(4): 1177-1188, 2010.

