

Economics 382: Economics of Work, Marriage and the Family

Spring 2013

Official Information and Calendar

Instructor: Shoshana Grossbard <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/faculty/sgs/>. I can be contacted via Email: shosh@mail.sdsu.edu; or come visit me during Office hours: Tu 10 to 10 45; Th 13:00 to 13:45 at Adams Humanities Room 4200.

Description from Catalog:

Economic analysis of marriage and labor supply; family-related changes in work behavior; gender differences in occupations and earnings; welfare, work and family policies in the U.S. and internationally; macroeconomic analysis of household structure and economy.

About this Course:

1. In the spirit of freakonomics (<http://www.freakonomics.com/blog/>) this course addresses out-of-the ordinary applications of economic analysis related to households and families.
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? Insights on dating are offered too.
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)
- Readings. Articles are assigned; there is no book.

Assessment and Grading

Exam 1	50 points
Exams 2 and 3	200 points (100 pts each)
Assignments and Presentation	100 points
Class Participation	50 points

GRAND TOTAL: 400 points

No extra credit options available.

More about exams:

- Exams scheduled in advance according to calendar below.
- Bring red large scantron forms to first exam; narrow red scantron forms to later exams.
- First exam consists entirely of multiple choice (MC) questions; last two exams have both MC and essay questions.

Class participation based on:

- attendance
- active and informed participation in class discussions
- sharing of materials pertaining to this class. Please post them on www.facebook.com/populationecon or www.facebook.com/econoflove and send me an email calling my attention to it
- commenting on entries that have appeared on these blogs.

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.

TOPICS and ASSIGNED READINGS

Note: REHO stands for Review of Economics of the Household

I. Introduction to the Course

Why it matters
Analytical Tools
Scope of study

II. Conceptual Framework

Different types of household production
How to motivate production
Quasi-wages

III. Marriage, Partnerships and Dissolution

Readings:

“Social norms, partnerships and children” by J. Ignacio Gimenez-Nadal,
Jose Alberto Molina & Almudena Sevilla-Sanz REHO 10:2, 2012
<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11150-011-9120-y>

“Registered Domestic Partnerships Among Gay Men and Lesbians: The Role of Economic Factors” by M.V. Lee Badgett, Gary Gates, and Natalya Maisel,
REHO, Vol 6:4, 2008

IV. Time use: household production

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.

“Household Chores and Racial Discrimination”, working paper by Shoshana Grossbard, J Ignacio Gimenez and J Alberto Molina. (will be made available on Blackboard).

“Marriage: for love, for money...and for time?” by Victoria Vernon REHO 8:4 2010



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

Opting out article

V. Economics of Love and Money; Household finances

Chapter 5 in MAE (Marriage and the Economy) by Frances Woolley

“[Do women value marriage more? The effect of obesity on cohabitation and marriage in the USA](#)” by [Sankar Mukhopadhyay](#), Review of Economics of the Household, [Volume 6, Number 2 / June, 2008](#)

[Intrahousehold allocation of financial resources: evidence from South Korean individual bank accounts](#) by [Jungmin Lee](#) and [Mark L. Pockock](#), Review of Economics of the Household, [Volume 5, Number 1 / March, 2007](#)

VI. Work and Family Policies

[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](#)

Calendar follows:

CALENDAR ECON 382 Spring 2013

Week 1 Jan 17

Introduction to the course

Week 2 starts Jan 22

Tools of economic analysis

Week 3 starts Jan 29

Statistical tools

Week 4 starts Feb 5

2/5: REVIEW SESSION

2/7: FIRST EXAM (MULTIPLE CHOICE; REVIEW OF ECONOMIC & STATISTICAL TOOLS)

Week 5 starts Feb 12

Part II Conceptual framework

Week 6 starts Feb 19

Part III Marriage, partnerships and dissolution

Week 7 starts Feb 26

Part III 2/28 REVIEW SESSION

Week 8 starts March 5

3/5: EXAM 2 about Parts I, II and III

Week 9 starts March 12

Part IV Time use

Week 10 starts March 19

Part IV Time use (continued) ; preparation for presentations

Week 11 starts March 26

Marriage markets

SPRING RECESS APRIL 1 TO 7

Week 12 starts April 9

Presentations

Week 13 starts April 16

Presentations

Week 14 starts April 23

Part V household finance

Week 15 starts April 30

Part VI Work and family policies

Week 16 starts May 7

5/7 Review session ; no school on 5/9

Exam 3 on 5/14