

Economics 382: Economics of Work, Marriage and the Family

Spring 2015

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: Tuesdays 10:15 to 10:50 and Thursdays 14:30 to 15:30 at Nasatir Hall Room 307.

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. 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 international and cross-cultural perspectives.

Main ways of Getting Information:

- Lectures
- Blackboard (Bb)
- Readings. Articles are assigned; there is no textbook (but you are welcome to browse my new book Shoshana Grossbard *The Marriage Motive: A Price Theory of Marriage. How Marriage Markets Affect Employment, Consumption and Savings*. Springer, 2015. You should be able to access it for free via the library; getting a printed copy via the library should not be too expensive).

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
<i>GRAND TOTAL:</i>	<i>400 points</i>

No extra credit options available.

More about exams:

- Exams scheduled in advance according to calendar below.
- Bring narrow red scantron forms to 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
- Social media activity pertaining to this class. Please post your entries on www.facebook.com/econoflove or tweet them. When you tweet start with '@econoflove so I see them; if you place on my fb page, send me an email or a fb message calling my attention to your post. Entries can include meaningful comments on previous 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
WiHo (Work-In-Household) and its Price

Reading: Shoshana Grossbard Chapter TWO “A theory of allocation of time in markets for labor and marriage: macro model” in *The Marriage Motive: A Price Theory of Marriage. Why Marriage Markets Affect Employment, Consumption and Savings*, Springer, 2015

III. Marriage, Partnerships and Dissolution

Readings:

Gary S. Becker (1973), ‘A Theory of Marriage: Part I’, *Journal of Political Economy*, **81**, 813–46

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

IV. Time use: household production and Labor Supply

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)

“Opting Out among Women with Elite Education” by Joni Hersch, *Review of Economics of the Household* Issue 11:4 December 2013

<http://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2Fs11150-013-9199-4.pdf>

V. Economics of Love and Money; Household finances

Woolley, Frances. “Control over money in Marriage.” In *Marriage and the Economy*, S. Grossbard-Shechtman ed. N.Y: Cambridge U Press (2003)

Shoshana Grossbard Chapter ELEVEN A theory of savings, in-marriage transfers, and Work-in-Household in *The Marriage Motive: A Price Theory of Marriage. Why Marriage Markets Affect Employment, Consumption and Savings*, Springer, 2015

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

More readings may be added during the semester.