

# Graduate Course Syllabus: Gender and Household Economics

**Course Title:** Gender and Household Economics

**Course Code:** ECON XXXX

**Term:** [Specify Term]

**Instructors:** [Marina Della Giusta, Chiara Pronzato, Maria Laura Di Tommaso, Giulia Savio]

## Course Description

This course explores the intersection of gender and economics, with a particular focus on household decision-making, labor market disparities, and public policy. We will examine theoretical and empirical research on gender differences, social norms, labor markets, family dynamics, and policy interventions aimed at promoting gender equality. The course will incorporate discussions of empirical methodologies and data analysis techniques used in gender economics research.

## Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the economic theories explaining gender differences in behavior and outcomes.
2. Analyze labor market disparities and the role of care work.
3. Evaluate household decision-making models and bargaining power dynamics.
4. Investigate family formation, fertility decisions, and the impact on children's outcomes.
5. Critically assess public policies aimed at reducing gender inequalities.

## Course Topics and Readings

### 1. Introduction to Gender Economics (*Marina Della Giusta*)

- Overview of gender disparities in economic outcomes
  - Empirical trends in gender gaps across countries
  - Key methodological approaches and models in gender economics
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### 2. Theories of Gender Differences (*Marina Della Giusta*)

- Gender differences in cognitive and non-cognitive skills
  - Social norms and stereotypes in economic behavior
  - Biological vs. cultural explanations of gender gaps and discrimination
  - Gender norms and intergenerational transmission
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### 3. Decision-Making in Households (*Maria Laura Di Tommaso*)

- Theories of household decision-making: unitary vs. collective models
- The economics of couple formation and marriage markets
- Bargaining power and intra-household resource allocation

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#### **4. Gender-Based Violence and Its Economic Implications (*Giulia Savio*)**

- Determinants of gender-based violence within households
- Gender based-violence in the workplace

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#### **5. Family and Demography (*Chiara Pronzato*)**

- Time, care, and development
- How childcare shapes labor supply, fertility, and early skills

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#### **6. Gender in the Labor Market (*Maria Laura Di Tommaso*)**

- Gender gaps in wages, employment, and occupational segregation
- Care work and unpaid labor in households

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#### **7. Affirmative Action and Quotas (*Giulia Savio*)**

- Policies to increase female representation
- Affirmative action policies in Politics
- Affirmative action in the Labour market

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#### **8. Impact Evaluation of Gender and Family Policies (*Chiara Pronzato*)**

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#### **9. Public Policy and Gender Equality**

- The role of taxation and social security in shaping gendered economic incentives
- Global case studies in gender-responsive policymaking

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### **Assessment**

A literature review and research proposal on one topic from the course, to be agreed with the lecturer concerned.

### **Key Readings**

(Selected articles and books; a full reading list will be provided)

- Blau, F. D., & Kahn, L. M. (2017). "The Gender Wage Gap: Extent, Trends, and Explanations." *Journal of Economic Literature*.
- Bertrand, M. (2020). "Gender in the Twenty-First Century." *Annual Review of Economics*.
- Duflo, E. (2012). "Women Empowerment and Economic Development." *Journal of Economic Literature*.
- Goldin, C. (2014). "A Grand Gender Convergence: Its Last Chapter." *American Economic Review*.
- Sen, A. (1990). "Gender and Cooperative Conflicts." In Tinker, I. (Ed.), *Persistent Inequalities: Women and World Development*.
- Jayachandran, S. (2021). "Social Norms as a Barrier to Women's Employment in Developing Countries." *IMF Economic Review*.
- Olivetti, C., & Petrongolo, B. (2017). "The Economic Consequences of Family Policies." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*.
- Kleven, H., Landais, C., Posch, J., Steinhauer, A., & Zweimüller, J. (2019). "Child Penalties Across Countries: Evidence and Explanations." *American Economic Review*.

## Software & Data

- Students will use **STATA, R, or Python** for empirical exercises.
  - Datasets may include **World Bank Gender Data, CPS, PSID, LSMS, DHS**, among others.
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