



Econ2142B 570
The Economics of Sex and Gender
Winter 2026

Instructor: Dr. Natalia Bezmaternykh
Email: nbezmate@uwo.ca

Course Information

Mode of Instruction: In Person

Calendar Description:

The course offers an exploration into the research and data from economics and social science on different economic agents in household and labour market levels. The course examines sex and gender economics issues such as differences in educational attainment, labour market participation, wage, and income.

Pre-requisite(s): Economics 1021A/B and Economics 1022A/B.

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: CATEGORY A

Subject Code: ECONOMIC

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.



King's University College at Western University
School of Management, Economics, and Mathematics

2142 THE ECONOMICS OF SEX AND GENDER¹

Winter 2026, Section 570

Classroom: Please see course's OWL Brightspace

Prerequisite: Econ 1021A/B and Econ 1022A/B.

Instructor Name: [Natalia Bezmaternykh](#)
Office Location: FB 109 (Faculty Building, ground floor)
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 3:00-5:00 (hybrid: you are welcome to come in person or join on Zoom) or by appointment (Zoom)²
Web Site: the OWL course website [OWL Brightspace](#)
Email address: nbezmate@uwo.ca
Personal Webpage: www.bezmaternykh.ca

Email Policy

Email address: nbezmate@uwo.ca

Students must use their uwo email address, so it does not end up in spam and can be verified. Subject line must include course and section number and should include the topic of the email, precisely for this class, **please start the subject line with 2142-570**. Emails need to be respectful and concise listing your issue, what you have done to solve it, and what you hope I can help you with; for example, to explain a concept, provide feedback, to make an appointment to meet in person or on zoom etc. I will do my best to respond to your emails within 24-48 hours on business (working) days. All course changes and updates will be communicated to students via the OWL course website, so please check that frequently.

Course Description and Outcomes

The course is in applied microeconomics and offers an exploration into the research and data from economics and social science on different economic agents (like women and men) in household and labour market levels. The course examines traditional sex and gender economics issues such as differences in educational attainment (both choice and level), labour market participation (occupational choice and the extend of participation), wage and income. Please see the detailed list of topics below.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the semester, successful students will be able to:

¹Please note that this is a **Tentative Outline**. Also, please note that outline is always a subject to change. It is **strongly** advisable to check OWL and email regularly and ask question during classes and office hours.

²Standard office hours: Zoom links will be announced on OWL; by appointment: emailed to the student.

- Analyze sex and gender differences in supply and demand behaviour in labour market.
- Analyze sex and gender differences in educational and occupational choices.
- Identify the presence and understand the factors behind wage and income inequality.
- Understand the importance and the complexity of design and implementation of different social policies on educational and occupational choices, labour participation and fertility rates.
- Evaluate the effect of government policies, such as minimum wage, on different economic agents in different market structures.
- Apply human capital theory to understand and analyze the decision to invest in different type of human capital of different genders and sexes.

Teaching Methods

The course will be delivered in person, and Zoom will be used to conduct office hours.

Course Materials

Students will be strongly recommended to purchase at least one of the two main texts (please see below). All published papers will be available through Western Library. About the row data: I will use only publicly available data and all the links will be provided to students. All required working papers will be available to students either in the form of a summary or complete papers given permission of their authors.

- The two main texts and an additional text:
 1. The Economics of Women, Men, and Work, 9th Edition 2021, (8th is fine as well), Francine D. Blau and Anne E. Winkler (please, note that e-book is available)
 - [if you would like to rent an e-book, please click here](#)
 - [if you would like to purchase this book, please click here](#)
 2. The Economics of Gender, 3rd Edition 2007, Blackwell Publishing, by Joyce Jacobson.

Software

- Word, Power Point, and Excel.

Other texts: Dollars and Sex, Harper Collins Publisher 2013 (later ones are fine, too), by Marina Adshade. (Please, note that e-book is available)³; students are welcome (but not required) to use other textbooks to complement the main text

The materials will be posted on OWL Brightspace (lecture slides, practice/participation questions, and so on).

³ This is an additional text. There is no requirement to purchase it, but it is an interesting and informative read.

Course Topics

| <u>Weeks/Dates</u> <u>dd/mm/yy</u> | <u>Topics and Material</u> |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Week 1/Lecture 1 08/01/26 | <p>Topic 1: Introduction, Overview and Gender Discussion</p> <p>Main source(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “The Economics of Women, Men, and Work”: Chapter 1 + Appendix; ▪ “The Economics of Gender”: Chapter 1 <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Participation = 2%</i></p> |
| Week 2/Lecture 2 15/01/26 | <p>Topic 2: Microeconomics Review and Gender Difference in the Economy of the US and Canada</p> <p>Main source(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “The Economics of Gender”: Chapter 1 (Appendix) & Chapter 2 ▪ “The Economics of Women, Men, and Work”: Chapter 2 ▪ Schirle, T. “The Gender Wage Gap in the Canadian Provinces, 1997-2014.” University of Toronto Press on behalf of Canadian Public Policy <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Participation = 2%</i></p> |
| Week 3/Lecture 3 22/01/26 | <p>Topic 3: The family as an Economic Unit and Gender Roles in the Household</p> <p>Main source(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “The Economics of Gender”: Chapter 3 + Appendix; ▪ “The Economics of Women, Men, and Work”: Chapter 3 & 4 ▪ “Dollars and Sex”: Chapter 6 – Bringing Home the Bacon <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Participation = 2%</i></p> |
| Week 4/Lecture 4 29/01/26 | <p>Topic 4: Labor Force Participation: Analysis of Trends</p> <p>Main source(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “The Economics of Gender”: Chapter 4 + Appendix; ▪ “The Economics of Women, Men, and Work”: Chapter 5 ▪ Blau, F.D. and Kahn, L.M. “Female Labor Supply: Why Is the United States Falling Behind?” The American Economic Review, Vol. 103, No. 3, pp. 251-256. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Participation = 2%</i></p> |
| Week 5/Lecture 5 05/02/2026 | <p>Topic 5: Marriage as an Economic Institution and the Consequences of the Labor Force Participation on Family Structure</p> <p>Main source(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “The Economics of Gender”: Chapter 5; ▪ “The Economics of Women, Men, and Work”: Chapter 6 ▪ “Dollars and Sex”: Chapter 5 – Marriage is a Fine Institution <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Participation = 2%</i></p> |
| Week 6 12/02/2025 | <p style="text-align: center;">Midterm Exam</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Midterm: 25%</i></p> |
| Week 7 / No Class 19/02/2026 | <p style="text-align: center;">Reading Week</p> |

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Week 8/Lecture 6 26/02/2026 | <p>Topic 6: Are Gender Differences the same Everywhere? Main source(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “The Economics of Gender”: Chapter 11; ▪ “The Economics of Women, Men, and Work”: Chapter 17 <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Participation = 2%</i></p> |
| Week 9/Lecture 7 05/03/2026 | <p>Topic 7-A: Are Gender Differences the same Everywhere? Main source(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “The Economics of Gender”: Chapter 11; ▪ “The Economics of Women, Men, and Work”: Chapter 17 <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Participation = 2%</i> <i>Presentations = 25%⁴</i></p> |
| Week 10/Lecture 8 12/03/2026 | <p>Topic 7-B: Are Gender Differences the same Everywhere? Main source(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “The Economics of Gender”: Chapter 10; ▪ “The Economics of Women, Men, and Work”: 18 <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Participation = 2%</i> <i>Presentations = 25%⁵</i></p> |
| Week 11/Lecture 9 26/03/2026 | <p>Topic 8: Gender Segregation in the workplace Main source(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “The Economics of Gender”: Chapter 6 <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Participation = 2%</i></p> |
| Week 12/Lecture 10 26/03/2026 | <p>Topic 9: Human Capital: Causes of Earning Differences Main source(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “The Economics of Gender”: Chapter 7+Appendix <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Participation = 2%</i></p> |
| Week 13/Lecture 11 02/04/2026 | Review |

Course Evaluation

The weights and scheduled dates for Participation, Midterm Exam 1, Midterm Exam 2, and Final Exam are as follows:

| <i>Activity/Assessment</i> | <i>Weight (%)</i> | <i>Date</i> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Participation | 20 | During lectures |
| Midterm Exam | 25 | February 12 th , 2026 (during class) |
| In Class Presentation | 25 | 05/03/2026 and 12/03/2026 |
| Final Exam | 30 | tba |

⁴ If your presentation is on that day you can earn both presentation and participation, and if you don't present on that day, then only participation.

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Participation

Participation, 20%.

Class discussions are an important part of the learning process for this course. I will always encourage a rich dialogue in which you are strongly encouraged to share your perspectives and experiences with your classmates. Study groups are strongly encouraged. Examples of “participation”: solving/attempting practice questions, participating in group discussions, summarizing reading/documentaries/so on.

Midterm Exam

Midterm Exam, 25% of your final grade, February 12th, 2024, during class. The exam will cover first 5 weeks of the materials we will have discussed in class by then. Structure of the exam: combination of short answer and essay questions.

Presentations and Opportunity to work in groups

You are welcome to work in groups (up to 4 people) or individually. Please, pick a topic (research question) that is related to the field of “Economics of Sex and Gender” and/or topics covered in this course. A list of suggested topics/questions will be posted on OWL. Please note that you are encouraged to choose your own research question as well. All questions must be approved by me (by email). The deadline to have your research question approved is a week after the midterm exam, by **February 26th**. If you decide to work in group, then the member whose name is alphabetically first should send the email with the topic to be approved, and this email should also include the following: (i) the list of group members; (ii) the division of labour between the group members in both report and presentation, and please note, that all group members have to participate during the presentation.

The length of the presentation would be finalized later in the course as it would depend on number of groups, but approximately, 7-15 mins. Below are some basic guidelines, but please note that everything will be discussed in class as well:

1. Clearly and concisely states your motivation, research question; brief overview of the literature; an answer to your research question using either data or using the evidence in the literature; summary of your contribution or answer to the question you posed.
2. Min number of references is 5, and all 5 must be published in peer reviewed journals.
3. Slides are clear and easy to follow.
4. Presentation is well timed.

You would need to submit the slides and a brief report on the topic. Report is 2 pages long, typed and double spaced. The report must include the following: (1) an introduction providing context to the reader and motivating your research, you will also pose your research question in this section; (2) an overview of the literature in which you discuss relevant research studies that have contributed to the literature; (3) an answer to your research question using either data and corresponding analysis and/or using the evidence in the literature, (4) a conclusion summarizing your contribution or answer to the question you posed. The paper should also include a title page with your information (name(s) and student number(s)), the date, course code and title of your

project. A list of references used in your research paper should be attached as the last page of the term paper. Both slides and report need to be submitted on the day of your presentation. No later submissions will be accepted unless there are medical or other exceptional circumstances.

Final Exam

Final Exam, 30% of your final grade, day and time tba. The final exam will cover the material from the entire semester.

Academic consideration for the exams (midterms and final) requires submission of formal supporting documents. Students who missed the exam for a valid and approved reason may be eligible for one make-up midterm during the semester, should they miss that day they can write the midterm the next time the course is offered.

Grading

Grades will be posted on OWL. I will make every effort to grade your work in a timely manner (1-2 weeks).

Some Important Notes:

1. It is a student's responsibility to check OWL regularly and all our important announcements will be posted there.
2. Students are responsible for their own actions. There are no other evaluation options other than the one provided above.
3. No assignment will be accepted past the deadline. The assignment answer key could be available before the assignment is returned to students (normally within 5 business days past the due date).
4. The final exam will cover all the topics we cover during the lecture, not necessarily all the topics listed above in this course outline. We will try to cover every topic, however, in case some topics are of interest to most of the students and the instructor feels more time should be spent on the topic, other topics could be saved for future courses.

Natalia Bezmaternykh holds the copyright in the works of all original materials used in this course and students registered in this course can use the materials for the purposes of this course but no other use is permitted, and there can be no sale or transfer or use of the work for any other purpose without explicit permission of Natalia Bezmaternykh.

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King’s University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King’s University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King’s is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western’s Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.