Economics 210: Economics of the Family*

Jeremy Greenwood

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1 Description

This course will study modern family economics. The class will develop economic models to study topics such as female labor supply, fertility, marriage and divorce, women’s liberation, premarital sex and parental socialization, investment in health, and retirement. This is an advanced undergraduate class. Calculus is an integral part of the course. Some elementary probability theory is drawn upon. Students unwilling to learn some of the tools used in modern economic should not take this class.

Posting any material from this course online is prohibited.

Lecture Format: The lectures will be asynchronous. They will be posted on Canvas in a timely fashion using Panopto. There will be virtual office hours one day each week. Students may also post questions on Canvas.

Teaching Assistant: TBA.

Departmental policies regarding courses are available here:

https://economics.sas.upenn.edu/undergraduate/course-information/course-policies

*May be subject to change.
2 Grading

The course will be evaluated on the basis of two equally weighted take-home exams. No collaboration with any person (either in or out of the class) is allowed for the exams. Only clarifying questions about the exam that are posted on Canvas (so everyone can see) on the Thursday and Friday immediately following the handout day will be answered. The exams are graded on a mixture of the skills you show in economics and mathematics. A penalty, which is strictly enforced, is assessed for each day an exam is late: 10% for the first day and 15% for each day thereafter. The take-home exam schedule is below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Handed Out</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed, October 28th</td>
<td>Wednesday, November 4th (midnight)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 2nd</td>
<td>Wednesday, December 9th (midnight)</td>
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3 Textbook


4 More Working Mothers–Chapter 1

- Measuring the Allocation of Time
- The basic model of labor supply
- A model of married female labor supply
- Calibration
- The Becker-Reid theory of Household Production
- The Rise in Married Female Labor Supply
  - Introductory Video, “Women’s Liberation: An Economic Perspective”
    [http://www.sas.upenn.edu/60second/archive/womens-liberation-economic-perspective](http://www.sas.upenn.edu/60second/archive/womens-liberation-economic-perspective)
• The Gender Wage Gap
• Brain and Brawn


5 The Baby Boom and Baby Bust—Chapter 2

• Basic Demographic Measures
• The Demographic Transition
• A Model of Fertility
  – Demographic Transition
  – Baby Boom
• World War I in France
• The Choice Over Jobs and Kids
• Malthus

6 Marriage and Divorce—Chapter 3

• A Model of Marriage and Divorce
• Analyzing the Decline in Marriage and the Rise in Divorce
• Assortative Mating
• Growing up with a Single Mother
• The Beckerian Theory of Marriage
7 Social Change–Chapter 4

- Women’s Liberation
- A Model of Premarital Sex
  - Introductory Video, “From Shame to Game in One Hundred Years”
    [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bR366Gq-5Sg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bR366Gq-5Sg)
- A Model of Parental Socialization
- The Spirit of Capitalism

8 Health and Retirement–Chapter 5

- Better Health
- A Model of Life Expectancy and Health Care Spending
- The Development of New Drugs
- Health Insurance
- A Model of the AIDS/HIV epidemic in Africa
- The Trend in Retirement
- A Model of Retirement
- Old Age Security