Ec268: The Economics of Gender and Race
Fall 1997
MWF 12, O'Neill 256

Professor: Jaana-Marja Muurinen

Office: Carney 243, x4514
Office Hours: Mondays 1:00-1:50 p.m., Wednesdays and Fridays 11:00-11:50 a.m.
and by appointment

SYLLABUS AND READING LIST

Introduction

This course analyzes the magnitude, causes and consequences of economic
differences between men and women, different races and individuals belonging
to different ethnic groups It has three main goals:
 a) exploration of the subject matter through careful use of microeconomic
analysis and empirical evidence,
 b)increased knowledge of economic theory, the ability to apply it and the
ability to be critical about the models economists use and
 c)increased skills in data interpretation. The course also allows practice
in oral and written presentation.

The course work consists of lectures and of student projects, described in a
separate handout. There will be one midterm examination and a final
examination. The former will take place halfway through the semester
(probably on or around October 24, 1997) and the latter as scheduled by the
registrar.

Course grades are based on both examinations and the project as follows:
 Course grade = 0.3(midterm grade)+0.3(project grade)+0.4(final exam grade)
The project grade itself has the following two components with weights as
shown:
 Project grade = 0.3(oral presentation grade)+0.7(written paper grade)

Make-up examinations will be given a) in the case of a temporarily
incapacitating illness (a note from a health care practitioner is needed), b)
if the examination is missed because of an absence for religious reasons as
described in the Undergraduate Catalog, provided that I am informed
about this prior to the scheduled examination date. Make-ups may also be
arranged for reasons of 'severe life events'.

Required Readings

A.   The following two readings are required.   Buy them at the bookstore:

1.   Wolff, Edward Nathan, 1997, *Economics of Poverty, Inequality and Discrimination*, South-Western College Publishing.

2.   Muurinen, Jaana-Marja, 1997, "Class Notes for Ec268"

Additional material will be handed out in class.   This material is also required reading.

Course Outline

The following outline lists the major topics of the course in the order they are going to be discussed.   For each topic, the associated readings are given in parentheses on the next line.   Note that due to the nature of the course it is not possible to give an exact timetable for these topics.

1.   **Introduction**

2.   **Descriptive Data on Economic Differences**
        (Muurinen, Ch. 1, Wolff, Ch. 1, pp. 1-8, Ch.2, pp. 37-40, Ch. 4, pp. 90-108, Ch. 5, pp. 132-147, Ch. 10, pp.361-362)

3.   **Basic Theories**

3.1.   Innate Differences in Productivity, Preferences and Economic Roles
        (Muurinen, Ch. 2.1.)
3.2.   Acquired Differences in Productivity, Preferences and Economic Roles
        (Muurinen, Ch. 2.2.)
3.3.   Theories of Discrimination
        (Muurinen, Ch. 3., Wolff, Ch. 12)

4.   **Analysis of Labor Markets: Occupations, Earnings and Unemployment**

4.1.   Theories of Labor Market Behavior
        (Muurinen, Ch. 4.1., Wolff, Ch. 5, pp. 147-179, Ch. 6, pp. 180-206, Ch. 8)
4.2.   Evidence on Labor Market Differences and its Interpretation
        (Muurinen, Ch. 4.2., Wolff, Ch. 13, pp.461-480, Ch, 14, pp. 511-536)
4.3.   Labor Market Policies and their Impact
        (Muurinen, Ch. 4.3., Wolff, Ch. 13, pp. 494-500, Ch. 14, 537-557)

5.   Differences in Educational Attainment

5.1.   Theories of Education
        (Muurinen, Ch. 5.1., Wolff, Ch. 5, pp 206-224)
5.2.   Evidence
        (Muurinen, Ch. 5.2., Wolff, Ch. 13, pp. 480-491)
5.3.   Education Policies and their Impact
        (Muurinen, Ch. 5.3.)

6.   Housing Markets: The Causes and Effects of Racial Segregation

6.1.   Evidence on Racial Patterns in Housing
        (Muurinen, Ch. 6.1.)
6.2.   Modelling Housing Markets
        (Muurinen, Ch. 6.2.)
6.3.   Housing Policy and Cases
        (Muurinen, Ch. 6.3.)

7.   Additional Topics

These depend on available time and might include the analysis of public income support programs, the legal system and markets not discussed above (health care, banking and insurance).