This course provides an introduction to a gendered analysis of economic processes and institutions. It investigates when, why, and in what ways gender shapes production, consumption, distribution, and transfer of assets. In six sessions, the course highlights selected questions about gender as an organizing principle in economic life while also exploring multiple definitions and explanations of what constitutes economic activity. After a general discussion of gender theories, it surveys how gender works in a variety of settings and activities, such as labor markets, intimate economies, and caring labor. We end with an overview of strategies aimed at reducing gendered economic inequalities. Overall, the course attempts to strengthen intellectual bridges between economic sociology and gender scholarship.

REQUIREMENTS: 1. Readings: (a) Required readings: All students must read in preparation for class discussion and reports, (b) Recommended readings identify valuable paths to and from the week's topic. Readings will be available in the course's Blackboard site or in the Sociology Department mailroom. For the latter, you should return the materials immediately after reading or photocopying.

2. Reports: Over the course of the six weeks each student prepares a total of three written reports. The first two reports consist of short critical essays concerning three or four of the current week's readings, of no more than 1,000 words; we will work out student responsibilities for sessions and particular readings in class. These reports serve as a basis for class presentation and discussion; students should circulate their reports electronically to the class by no later than 5 PM the Monday preceding the class session. Depending on class size, we may organize formal responses to these statements by other class members.

The reports should focus on the following issues;

a. what question is addressed by the author(s)?

b. what is the significance of that question for key issues in the field?

c. what are competing answers to that question?

d. how well does the author address that question, in terms of logic and methodology?

e. what would be a different, valid way of addressing the same question, preferably one you regard as superior?

The third report, also of no more than 1,000 words, is due on Friday, May 7. It will take up one of the following three options:

1. A brief research proposal based on one of the seminar's subjects or another topic to be chosen in consultation with instructor.

2. Analysis and critique of a major issue in the field of gender and economic sociology.

3. Intellectual biography of one of the course's authors.
READINGS

WEEK 1 (March 24) WHEN, WHY, AND HOW DOES GENDER MATTER FOR ECONOMIC ACTIVITY?

Required:


Recommended


WEEK 2 (March 31) LABOR MARKETS

Guest discussant: Bonnie Thornton Dill, Stanley Kelley, Jr. Visiting Professor of Distinguished Teaching.

Required:


Recommended


WEEK 3 (April 7) INTIMATE ECONOMIES

Required:


Recommended:


WEEK 4 (April 14) THE CASE OF CAREWORK
Required:


Recommended:


Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo and Ernestine Avila, “I’m Here, but I’m There,” in *Families at Work: Expanding the Bounds*, edited by Naomi Gerstel et al. Nashville, TC: Vanderbilt University Press, 2002, pp.139-161


WEEK 5 (April 21) GENDERED TRANSACTIONS
Required:


Recommended:


WEEK 6 (April 28) **TRANSFORMING GENDERED ECONOMIES**
Required:


Recommended:


