

Professor Burnett  
Fall 2008  
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ECON/WOM STDS 307  
Office: Clow Faculty 321  
Hours: TuTh 9:30-11 & 3-3:30  
or by appointment

## ***Discrimination, Gender, and the Economy***

*Course Description:* This course analyzes the experiences of minorities and women in the economy using both traditional and non-traditional methodologies. It attempts to extend the traditional interpretation of economic issues to the unique experiences of these groups.

*Prerequisites:* This course requires the student to have passed an introductory course in Economics. We will be making use of the tools that are developed in these courses (General Economics or Principles), so it is essential that the student be comfortable with that material.

*Course Format:* The early class material will concentrate primarily on tools and methodologies, and as such, will be primarily lecture. As we approach the rest of the material, the course will become more like a seminar with student input. I fully expect students to be prepared with the material and able to answer questions about the reading. Even though I fully understand the need for today's student to multi-task, I will not allow students to use laptop computers during class (unless there are special needs, such as a disability, that need to be accommodated).

*Readings:* Readings for this course will include not only the main text, but also some outside readings. As I have not financially burdened you with a paper text, I expect you to actually do the reading!! The text is *Economics of the Everyday: Gender and the US Economy*, (referred to as Burnett in the reading list) This is my own book in the manuscript stage on D2L at <https://uwosh.courses.wisconsin.edu/>. These chapters are still in the draft stage, so any comments are welcome. Occasionally, additional readings from outside sources or handouts may be assigned as well.

*Requirements:* The course grade will be based upon a midterm, a cumulative final, write ups of 3 campus events, participation (online with a D2L weekly discussion board) and a journal-type project (I Spy – see below).

midterm	100 points ( <i>Thursday, Oct. 16</i> )
I Spy project	50 points
participation	5 points each
3 write ups	15 points each
final	120 points ( <i>Thursday, Dec. 11</i> )

*Grading Scale:\**

92%-100% A  
87%-91% AB  
80%-86% B  
76%-79% BC  
68%-75% C  
60%-67% CD  
55%-59% D  
Less than 55% F

\* Also, note that the grades are curved so that there may be some adjustments to your numerical scores on various assignments. Any such adjustments will be announced as well as posted on D2L.

*Exams* for this course will be primarily essay, with some graphical manipulation required, and possibly some very light algebra. The final will be comprehensive, though it will concentrate on the topics covered since the midterm.

The *participation* portion of your grade will be taken from your participation on the D2L discussion postings you make for this class. In order to earn 5 points per week you must make one well reasoned post (or response) to **one question** on the current weekly discussion board. There are different questions each week: you cannot go back to previous week's material to 'make-up' a week; therefore, I give you a 'free week,' since everyone has a bad week now and again.

The course also requires 3 *write ups*. Each student will also be responsible for writing up 3 campus events. These events must be related to discrimination in some way. A fairly large selection will be available to you over the course of the semester. I will announce in class all pertinent events as far in advance as possible. Even though these events are scheduled throughout the semester, I wholeheartedly recommend **NOT** letting this assignment slide until the end of the semester (you may find there won't be anything left to go see!). Every semester several students miss these easy points because they wait so long that there are no more events to attend. Please turn in your write ups within 2 weeks of attending the event if possible, too often students turn in the write ups so close to the end of the semester that they do not leave time for rewrites (which is an option available on any write up receiving less than 10 out of 15 points). The **LAST** day to turn in these assignments is *Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008*. Those **2-3 page** write ups should include a summary of the event and your answers to the following questions: "What was the purpose of this event?" "What were the presenters' main conclusions?" "How do these conclusions impact gender or race relations?" "What are the implications of these conclusions?" and (most importantly) "How does this relate to economics?"

The *I Spy project* for this course consists of 5 submissions of an ongoing **I Spy** journal, with 10 points per submission. For full details of this assignment, please see the separate **I Spy** assignment page. The first **I spy** write up is to be turned in to me on Thursday Sept. 18 (with successive I Spys due on Oct. 2, Oct. 16, Oct. 30, and Nov. 13). You are responsible for these dates, they may, or may not, be mentioned in class. I will

return each graded submission to you and you will need to pick them up from me within one and a half weeks of submission, if you fail to do so, points will be deducted from the next I spy you submit to me. You must keep all I Spys together - with each new addition stapled to the **top** of the preceding submissions, failing to turn in all your I spy's together will result in a reduction of points. Old I Spys turned in with the new ones must be the graded copy, not newly printed out copies of the old I Spys. The format and content for these write-ups is contained in the I spy page. If you get 3 full credit I Spys in a row, you are excused from turning in the remaining I Spys and you will still receive full credit for all I Spys. If however, you have even 1 point deducted from any I Spy, the count starts over. You may refer to me for questions on this policy.

## ***Reading List***

*Note: I do not expect you to replicate any numbers or equations you find in the reading. Read for content and general ideas. Evaluate your reading on its persuasiveness, not on its level of intricacy.*

### ***Part I: Introduction***

#### A. Methodology

Burnett, Ch. 1 (Web)

#### B. Historical Perspectives

Burnett, Ch. 2 (Web)

History of Slavery (Web)

Read the sections "Africa: The Long March", "The Transatlantic Slave Trade" "Slave Labor and Slave Systems" and "The Struggle Against Slavery and Abolition" of the web site "Lest we forget: The Triumph over Slavery" at

<http://digital.nypl.org/lwf/english/site/flash.html>

#### C. Labor Force Participation

Burnett, Ch. 3 (Web)

#### D. Wage Determination

Burnett, Ch. 4 (Web)

#### E. Human Capital Theory and Discrimination

Burnett, Ch. 5 (Web)

Women of Color and Social Security (Web Document)

Welfare Reform (Web Document)

## F. Comparable Worth

Burnett, Ch. 14 (Web)

## **Part II: Advanced Topics**

### A. Family, Culture, and Work

#### i. Poverty

Burnett, Ch. 6 (Web)

#### ii. Gender

Burnett, Ch. 7 and 8 (Web)

Becker, Gary "Nobel Lecture: The Economic Way of Looking at Behavior" *Journal of Political Economy*, 101(3), June, 1993. pp. 385-409. (**Read pp. 395-402**). (Web PDF file).

Bergmann, Barbara "The Economic Risks of Being a Housewife" *American Economic Review*, May, 1981. **pp. 81-86**. (Web PDF file).

### B. Education

Burnett, Ch. 10 (Web)

"It's Still a Pink and Blue World: Cosmetology for Girls, Carpentry for Boys", (web Document)

### C. Health

Burnett, Ch. 9 (Web)

Dirie, Waris, "Desert Flower" *Readers Digest*, June 1999. pp. **186-211**. (Web)

### D. Women of Color

Burnett, Ch. 11 (Web)

“At the Intersection of Race and Gender” (Web Document)

Web material: (You may access these sites directly, or through D2L)

- [http://afroamhistory.about.com/library/blsojourner\\_truth\\_womanspeech.htm](http://afroamhistory.about.com/library/blsojourner_truth_womanspeech.htm)
- [www.now.org/issues/diverse/ending.html](http://www.now.org/issues/diverse/ending.html)

#### E. Women and the Law

Burnett, Ch. 12 (Web)

“Title IX and Women’s Athletic Opportunity: A Nation’s Promise Yet to be Fulfilled” (Web Document or

[http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/ANation'sPromise\\_June2002.pdf](http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/ANation'sPromise_June2002.pdf) )

#### F. Race and the Legal System

Peffley, Mark, John Hurwitz, and Paul M. Sniderman, “Racial Stereotypes and White Political Views of Blacks in the Context of Welfare and Crime”, *American Journal of Political Science*, 41(1), Jan. 1997, pages 30-60. **Read pages 30-33 AND pages 21-27 (the conclusion section).**

#### G. Race and Gender in the Business World

Burnett, Ch. 13 (Web)

### **Part III: Conclusions and Beginnings**

#### Policies and Scenarios for the Future

Burnett, Ch. 15 (Web)