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Harvard College/GSAS: 108892
Fall 2018-2019

Prof Claudia Goldin (office hours W 3pm to 4pm, Litt 229, 9/12-12/5; contact Gia Petrakis gpetrakis@fas.harvard for an appointment). Note: No office hours 9/19; substitute hours on 9/18.

Celena Huo (office hours Th 1:30-2:30pm, Litt M42 9/20-12/6; email yuezhouhuo@g.harvard.edu for an appointment).

Meeting Time & Place: Monday 3:00pm - 5:00pm, Littauer M-17

Course Description: How are the most personal choices and life transitions decided? When and whom do you marry, how many children do you have, how much education should you obtain, and which careers or jobs will you pursue? Much will be explored in terms of change over time, particularly concerning the economic emergence of women and the growing role of government. Readings draw on economic theory, empirical analyses, history, and literature from the 19th century to the present.

[2018 Syllabus and Readings.](#)

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COURSE INFORMATION FOR FALL 2018

The full syllabus and readings are provided under "Pages" by course week. The full syllabus is also [here](#).

Goals of the Course:

- To exploreâ€”empirically, historically, comparatively and theoreticallyâ€”the changing significance, timing, and meaning of career, family and marriage, with special emphasis on the economic role of women.
- To involve students in the creative process of researching, writing, and presenting an original piece of work using a variety of primary sources (e.g., mainly large-scale cross-section data sets, but also smaller data sets on particular sub-groups).
- To discuss and understand current policy-relevant issues concerning *Work and Family* using print and electronic media.

Readings:

All readings are hyperlinked on the "pages" syllabus. If a link does not work, bring it to our attention. Many of the readings are also under *Files/Ec980X_Readings* and can be accessed from there.

Course Requirements:

1. Write two short assignments (about 3 pages each)
2. Create a [Research Paper](#) (there is no page requirement but 20 to 25 pages is the usual length). The teaching staff will work closely with each of you to find a topic and provide direction. You will begin with a [Proposal](#). You will then formulate a [Prospectus](#), write a [Draft](#), deliver a [15-minute presentation](#) in class and then produce the final Research Paper. Each of these stages is covered in the Assignments (see below). Also see [Great Writing](#) as a general guide to writing research papers.
3. Prepare responses to questions each week about the readings or about a topical article. These will provide the material for the discussion part of the course.
4. Post three *Topical Articles* (with pithy comments) to the *Discussion* page of the Ec980x website during the semester. Provide comments on three of the *Topical Articles* already posted.

Course Organization:

The course is organized as a lecture and discussion seminar. Discussion questions concerning the readings will be provided in advance of class. The responses to these questions should be thoroughly considered for discussion in teams, but need not be written out for submission.