Professor Roland G. Fryer

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SOCIAL ECONOMICS (Inequality, Education, and Social Interactions) Room: Harvard Hall 103

Tuesday, Thursday: 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

This is a graduate course in labor economics and related topics, appropriate for graduate students in the Department of Economics and other students with advanced preparation in microeconomic theory and econometrics. This course applies the tools of economics to explore social issues including crime, discrimination, racial and gender differences, family structure, social interactions and peer effects, and intergenerational mobility.

The syllabus contains a reading list that is a broad guide to the literature. I will tell you which readings to focus on one week in advance. When possible, a draft of lecture notes will also be made available prior to class. However, lecture topics are subject to change without notice and notes are subject to updating after class.

Many comprehensive surveys of key topics in labor economics are available in the *Handbook of Labor Economics*, published by Elsevier Science and available on-line from Science Direct through the Harvard Libraries. Volumes 1 and 2 from 1986 are edited by Orley Ashenfelter and Richard Layard. Volume 3 (in three volumes) from 1999 and Volume 4 (in two volumes) from 2010 are edited by Orley Ashenfelter and David Card.

Preparation for research: Students are *strongly* encouraged to attend the weekly Labor Economics Workshop, which meets on Wednesday from 4:00 to 5:30 in Littauer M-16.

Grading: Students will prepare a midterm (40%), final examination (40%), and problem sets (20%).

The Midterm is October 3, 2017.

The final exam will take place in exam period at a mutually agreed upon time and date.

ECONOMICS 2811: Expected Lecture Schedule for Fall 2017 (subject to radical change)

I. Economics of Discrimination

Aug 31: Introduction to course, Becker's Theory of Discrimination

Sept 5: Models of Discrimination

Sept 7: Economics of Search, Search Models of Discrimination

Sept 12: Testing for Discrimination I: Mincer, Audit Studies

Sept 14: Testing for Discrimination II: Using Theory

Sept 19: Anti-Discrimination Policy I: Theory

Sept 21: Anti-Discrimination Policy II: Efficacy of Legal Interventions

II. Economics of Education

Sept 26: Basic Facts about Population Differences in Student Achievement

Sept 28: Estimating Educational Production Functions: (Class Size and

Competition)

Oct 3: Midterm Exam

Oct 5: Understanding Value-Add Models

Oct 10: Agency Theory, Incentives, and Student Achievement

Oct 12: Impact of Charter/Magnet Schools on Outcomes

Oct 17: Understanding and Increasing Educational Efficiency

Oct 19: Toward an Understanding of Non-Cognitive Skills and Outcomes

III. Family Background, Neighborhoods, Social Connections, and Identity

Oct 24: Models of Intergenerational Mobility

Oct 26: Measurement of Intergenerational Mobility

Oct 31: Segregation: Measurement and Impact on Outcomes

Nov 2: Economic Models of Poverty

Nov 7: Moving to Opportunity and other Programs to Alleviate Poverty
Nov 9: Models of Social Interactions I: Herding, Networks, and Information

Nov 14: Models of Social Interactions II: Conformity and Signalling

Nov 16: Estimating Peer Effects

IV. Economics of Crime

Nov 21/28: Economics of Crime and Punishment

Nov 30: Make up / Review

TBD: Final Exam

I. Economics of Discrimination

Altonji and R. Blank (1999), "Race and Gender in the Labor Market," in O. Ashenfelter and D. Card, eds., *Handbook of Labor Economics*, vol. 3C, North Holland, 3143-3259.

E. Phelps (1972), "The Statistical Theory of Racism and Sexism," *AER* 62 (Sept), 659-61.

Aigner and G. Cain (1977), "Statistical Theories of Discrimination," *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, 30 (January), 175-87.

D. Black (1995), "Discrimination in an Equilibrium Search Model," *JOLE* 12 (April), 309-334. P.A. Riach and J. Rich (2002), "Field Experiments of Discrimination in the Market Place," *Economic Journal*, 112 (November), F480-F518.

M. Bertrand and S. Mullainathan, "Are Emily and Greg More Employable than Latisha and Jamal? A Field Experiment on Labor Market Discrimination," *American Economic Review* 94 (September 2004), 991-1013.

- D. Pager (2007) "The Use of Field Experiments for Studies of Employment Discrimination: Contributions, Critiques, and Directions for the Future," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 609: 104-133.
- D. Autor and D. Scarborough (2006), "Will Job Testing Harm Minority Workers? Evidence from the Retail Sector", MIT, December.
- J. Altonji and C. Pierret (2001), "Employer Learning and Statistical Discrimination," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 116 (February), 313-50.
- G. Becker (1957), *The Economics of Discrimination*, University of Chicago Press.
- K. Arrow (1973), "The Theory of Discrimination," in O. Ashenfelter and A. Rees,
- ed., Discrimination in Labor Markets, Princeton U. Press, 3-33.
- G. Borjas and S. Bronars (1989), "Consumer Discrimination and Self-Employment," *Journal of Political Economy* 97, 581-605.
- A. Goldberger (1984), "Reverse Regression and Salary Discrimination," *Journal of Human Resources*, 19 (Summer), 293-318.
- C. Goldin and C. Rouse (2000), "Orchestrating Impartiality: The Impact of 'Blind' Auditions on Female Musicians," *American Economic Review* 90 (September), 715-41.
- J. Hellerstein, D. Neumark and K. Troske (1999), "Wages, Productivity, and Worker Characteristics: Evidence from Plant-Level Production Functions and Wage Equations," *Journal of Labor Economics*17 (July), 409-446.
- C. Nardinelli and C. Simon (1990), "Customer Discrimination in the Market for Memorabilia: The Case of Baseball," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 105 (August): 575-95.
- H. Holzer and K. Ihlanfeldt (1998), "Customer Discrimination and Employment Outcomes for Minority Workers," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 113 (August), 835-67.
- D. Pager, B. Western, B. Bonikowski (2006), "Discrimination in Low-Wage Labor Markets," Princeton; http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic93239.files/Pager 10-18-06 Paper.pdf
- D. Neumark et al. (1996), "Sex Discrimination in Restaurant Hiring: An Audit Study," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 111 (August), 915-41.
- C. Fershtman and U. Gneezy (2001), "Discrimination in a Segmented Society: An Experimental Approach," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 116 (February), 351-77.
- J. List (2004), "The Nature and Extent of Discrimination in the Marketplace: Evidence from the Field," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 119 (February), 49-89.
- D. Hamermesh and J. Biddle (1994), "Beauty and the Labor Market," *AER* 84 (December).
- M. Mobius and T. Rosenblatt (2006), "Why Beauty Matters," AER 96 (March), 222-235.
- N. Persico, A. Postlewaite, and D. Silverman (2004), "The Effect of Adolescent Experience on Labor Market Outcomes: The Case of Height," *Journal of Political Economy* 112 (October).
- A. Case and C. Paxson (2006), "Stature and Status: Height, Ability and Labor Market Outcomes," Princeton; http://www.nber.org/confer/2006/lsf06/case.pdf (Links to an external site.) Links to an external site.
- G. A. Akerlof (1985), "Discriminatory, status-based wages among tradition-oriented, stochastically trading coconut producers". *The Journal of Political Economy*, 265-276.
- J. E. Stiglitz (1973). "Approaches to the Economics of Discrimination". *The American Economic Review*, 287-295.
- Lundberg, S. J., & Startz, R. (1983). Private discrimination and social intervention in competitive labor market. *The American Economic Review*, 340-347
- Milgrom, P., & Oster, S. (1987). Job discrimination, market forces, and the invisibility hypothesis. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 453-476

Cornell, B., & Welch, I. (1996). Culture, information, and screening discrimination. *Journal of Political Economy*, 542-571.

Lang, K. (1986). A language theory of discrimination. *The quarterly journal of economics*, 363-382

Carroll, S. J., & Rolph, J. E. (1973). A stochastic model of discrimination in the labor market. *Econometrica: Journal of the Econometric Society*, 97-108

Bowlus, A. J., & Eckstein, Z. (2002). Discrimination and Skill Differences in an Equilibrium Search Model*. *International Economic Review*, *43*(4), 1309-1345

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Black/White Differences

- J. Donohue and J. Heckman (1991), "Continuous Versus Episodic Change: The Impact of Civil Rights Policy on the Economic Status of Blacks," *JEL* (December), 1603-42.
- D. Neal and W. Johnson (1996), "The Role of Premarket Factors in Black-White Wage Differences," *Journal of Political Economy* 104 (October), 869-95.
- G. Loury (2002), The Anatomy of Racial Inequality, Harvard University Press.
- G. Loury (2003), "Racial Stigma: Toward a New Paradigm for Discrimination Theory," *AER* (May), 334-7.
- K. Lang and M. Manove and W. Dickens (2005), "Racial Discrimination in Labor Markets with Announced Wages," *American Economic Review* 95 (September), 1327-40.
- D. Card and A. Krueger (1992), "School Quality and Black/White Relative Earnings: A Direct Assessment," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 107 (February).
- C. Juhn (2003), "Labor Market Dropouts and Trends in Black and White Wages," *ILRR* 56 July. A. Chandra (2003), "Is the Convergence in the Racial Wage Gap Illusory?," NBER WP No. 9476.
- D. Neal (2004), "The Measured Black-White Wage Gap Among Women Is Too Small," *Journal of Political Economy* 112 (February, Part 2), S1-S28.
- J. Bound and R. Freeman (1992), "What Went Wrong? The Erosion of the Earnings and Employment of Young Black Men in the 1980s," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 107 (February).
- W. Rodgers and W. Spriggs (1996), "What Does AFQT Really Measure: Race, Wages, Schooling and the AFQT Score," *Rev. of Black Political Economy* 24 (Spring).
- P. Carneiro, J. Heckman, and D. Masterov (2003), "Labor Market Discrimination and Racial Differences in Pre-Market Factors," NBER WP No. 10068, November.

Charles, K. K., & Guryan, J. (2008). Prejudice and wages: an empirical assessment of Becker's The Economics of Discrimination. *Journal of Political Economy*, *116*(5), 773-809

Male/Female Differences

- F. Blau and L. Kahn (2000), "Gender Differences in Pay," JEP 14 (Fall), 75-99.
- C. Goldin (1986), "Monitoring Costs and Occupational Segregation by the Sexes: An Historical Analysis," *Journal of Labor Economics*.
- M. Niederle and L. Vesterlund (2007), "Do Women Shy Away from Competition? Do Men Compete Too Much?," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 122 (August),

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- C. Goldin (1990), *Understanding the Gender Gap*, Oxford U. Press, esp. ch. 3, 4, and 6.
- C. Goldin (2006), "The Quiet Revolution that Transformed Women's Employment, Education and Family," *American Economic Review* (May).
- C. Goldin (2002), "A Pollution Theory of Discrimination: Male and Female Differences in Occupations and Earnings," NBER WP No. 8985, June.
- L. Babcock and S. Laschever (2003), Women Don't Ask, Princeton U. Press.
- P. Loprest (1992), "Gender Differences in Wage Growth and Job Mobility," AER, May.
- C. Brown and M. Corcoran (1997), "Sex-Based Differences in School Content and the Male/Female Wage Gap," *Journal of Labor Economics* 15, 431-65.
- J. O'Neill and S. Polachek (1993), "Why the Gender Gap Narrowed in the 1980s," *Journal of Labor Economics* 11 (January, part 1), 205-228.
- F. Blau and L. Kahn (1997), "Swimming Upstream: Trends in the Gender Wage Differential in the 1980s," *Journal of Labor Economics* 15 (January, Part 1), 1-42.
- F. Blau and L. Kahn (2004), "The U.S. Gender Pay Gap in the 1990s: Slowing Convergence," NBER WP 10853, October.
- F. Blau and L. Kahn (2003), "Understanding International Differences in the Gender Pay Gap," *Journal of Labor Economics* 21 (January).
- C. Olivetti and B. Petrongolo (2006), "Unequal Pay or Unequal Employment? A Cross-Country Analysis of Gender Gaps?," Boston University, June;
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- D. Ellwood, T. Wilde, and L. Batchelder (2004), "The Impact of Childbearing on Wages of Women of Differing Skill Levels," Harvard University, March.
- D. Ginther and S. Kahn (2004), "Women in Economics: Moving Up or Falling Off the Academic Career Ladder?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 18 (Summer), 193-214.
- R. Wood, M. Corcoran, and P. Courant (1993), "Pay Differences among the Highly Paid: The Male-Female Earnings Gap in Lawyers' Salaries," *Journal of Labor Economics* 11 (July), 417-41.

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The Theory and Measurement of Anti-Discrimination Policies

- H. Holzer and D. Neumark (2000), "Assessing Affirmative Action," JEL 38 (Sept), 483-568.
- J. Leonard (1984), "The Impact of Affirmative Action on Employment," *JOLE* 2 (October).
- S. Coate and G. Loury (1993), "Will Affirmative Action Eliminate Negative Stereotypes?," *American Economic Review*, December, 1220-1240.
- R. Fryer, G. Loury, and T. Yuret (forthcoming), "An Economic Analysis of Color-Blind Affirmative Action," http://www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/fryer/papers/cbaarevision.pdf
- J. McCrary (2007), "The Effect of Court-Ordered Hiring Quotas on the Composition and Quality of

Police," *AER* (March); http://www-personal.umich.edu/~jmccrary/mccrary2006.pdf (Links to an external site.) Links to an external site.

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- R. Fryer and G. Loury (2005), "Affirmative Action and Its Mythology," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 19 (Summer), 147-62.
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- J. Heckman and B. Payner (1989), "Determining the Impact of Federal Antidiscrimination Policy on the Economic Status of Blacks: A Study of South Carolina," *AER* 79 (March).
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- P. Oyer and S. Schaefer (2002), "Sorting, Quotas and the Civil Rights Act of 1991: Who Hires When Its Hard to Fire," *Journal of Law and Economics* 45 (April), 41-68.
- C. Jolls, and J.J. Prescott (2004), "Disaggregating Employment Protection: The Case of Disability Discrimination," NBER WP No. 10740, September.
- A. Manning (1996), "The Equal Pay Act as an Experiment to Test Theories of the Labor Market," *Economica*, 63, pp. 191-212.
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- Fryer, R. G. (2007). Belief flipping in a dynamic model of statistical discrimination. *Journal of Public Economics*, *91*(5), 1151-1166
- Fryer, R. G., & Loury, G. C. (2013). Valuing diversity. *The journal of political economy*, 121(4), 747
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II. Economics of Education

- <u>R.</u> Fryer and S. Levitt (2004), "Understanding the Black-White Test Score Gap in the First Two Years of School," *Review of Economics and Statistics* 86 (May), 447-61.
- R. Fryer and S. Levitt (2007), "Testing for Racial Differences in the Mental Ability of Young Children." Available at: http://www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/fryer/papers.html
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- D. Neal (2006), "Why Has Black-White Skill Convergence Stopped?" in E. Hanushek and F. Welch, eds., *Handbook of the Economics of Education*, Elsevier, 512-576.
- W. Collins and R. Margo (2003), "Historical Perspectives on Racial Differences in Schooling in the United States," NBER WP No. 9770.

- C. Hoxby (2000), "Does Competition Among Public Schools Benefit Students and Taxpayers?" *American Economic Review*, 90(5).
- J. Rothstein (2007),"Does Competition Among Public Schools Benefit Students and Taxpayers? A Comment on Hoxby (2000)," *American Economic Review*, 97(5), December, pp. 2026-2037.
- J. Rothstein (2010), "Teacher Quality in Educational Production: Tracking, Decay, and Student Achievement," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 125(1), February 2010, pp. 175-214.
- R. Chetty, J. Friedman, and J. Rockoff, (2013) "Measuring the Impacts of Teachers I: Evaluating Bias in Teacher Value-Added Estimates," NBER WP No. 19423.
- R. Chetty, J. Friedman, and J. Rockoff, (2013) "Measuring the Impact of Teachers II: Teacher Value-Added and Student Outcomes in Adulthood," NBER WP No. 19424.
- D. Deming (2011), "Better Schools, Less Crime?" *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 126(4): 2063-2115.
- S. Billings, D. Deming, and J. Rockoff, "School Resegregation, Educational Attainment and Crime: Evidence from the End of Busing in Charlotte-Mecklenburg," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, forthcoming.
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- Fryer, R. G., & Levitt, S. D. (2010). An Empirical Analysis of the Gender Gap in Mathematics. *American Economic Journal*. *Applied Economics*, *2*(2), 210
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- Krueger, A. B., & Whitmore, D. M. (2001). The effect of attending a small class in the early grades on college-test taking and middle school test results: Evidence from Project STAR. *The Economic Journal*, *111*(468), 1-28
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- Branch, G. F., Hanushek, E. A., & Rivkin, S. G. (2012). *Estimating the effect of leaders on public sector productivity: The case of school principals* (No. w17803). National Bureau of Economic Research
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- Fryer Jr, R. G., Levitt, S. D., List, J., & Sadoff, S. (2012). *Enhancing the efficacy of teacher incentives through loss aversion: A field experiment* (No. w18237). National Bureau of Economic Research
- Fryer, Roland G. "Financial Incentives and Student Achievement: Evidence from Randomized Trials*." *The Quarterly journal of economics* 126.4 (2011): 1755-1798

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Hoxby, C. M., & Murarka, S. (2009). *Charter schools in New York City: Who enrolls and how they affect their students' achievement* (No. w14852). National Bureau of Economic Research Dobbie, W., & Fryer Jr, R. G. (2011). Are high-quality schools enough to increase achievement among the poor? Evidence from the Harlem Children's Zone. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*

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III. Family Background, Neighborhoods, Social Connections, and Identity

The Theory and Measurement of Intergenerational Mobility

- G. Solon (1999), "Intergenerational Mobility in the Labor Market," in O. Ashenfelter and D. Card, eds., *Handbook of Labor Economics*, vol. 3A, 1761-1800.
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Economics of Social (Non-Market) Interactions

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- T. Calvo-Armengol and M. Jackson (2004), "The Effects of Social Networks on Employment and Inequality," *American Economic Review* 94(3), 426-454.
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