

ECON 138: The Economics of Discrimination Fall 2021

This syllabus pertains to ALL sections of ECON 138: Aoo, Boo, Coo, and Doo. Please read carefully as the structure of this class is slightly different from what you might be used to.

All times are in PDT. We reserve the right to make any changes to the syllabus as the quarter progresses. You are responsible for checking Canvas regularly for updates and announcements.

Course content overview

This course will investigate differences in economic outcomes by race, gender, sexual orientation, and other personal characteristics. We will study economic theories of discrimination, empirical work testing those theories, and policies aimed at alleviating group-level differences in economic outcomes. This course is also designed to teach students how to discuss controversial topics in a respectful, informed, and inclusive manner. Thanks to Professors Kate Antonovics and Prashant Bharadwaj for the original design of this course.

Course structure

Previously, this class has been taught by one instructor in a traditional lecture format. This quarter, we are excited to have three co-instructors, with each of us teaching the material we are most passionate about. Each section has the following structure:

M/W 8-9:20am: Remote Zoom lecture, combined with discussion about an assigned reading or video. **The hour-long lecture will be recorded and posted to Canvas.**

T/Th 8-9:20am: Class is remote, synchronous, and via Zoom. Material presented during class will be similar to the M/W lecture. **This will not be recorded, but all materials will be posted on Canvas.**

T/Th 3:30-4:50pm, 5:00-6:20pm: Class is in-person. Material presented during class will be similar to the M/W lecture. **This will not be recorded, but all materials will be posted on Canvas.**

All sections: Students in all sections will only be tested on lecture material and materials posted to Canvas.

	Format	Recorded?	Materials posted to Canvas?

M/W 8-9:20am	Remote (Zoom) Join URL: https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/98853463777?pwd=T29RRXpiRENhcDk3WGJlMnZlM2Z5dz09	Yes	Yes
T/Th 8-9:20am	Remote (Zoom) Join URL: https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/95623810275?pwd=R1hja1JBOEdGbndPcjJ1cmpXbjdhdz09	No	Yes
T/Th 3:30-4:50pm	In person Mandeville Center B-210	No	Yes
T/Th 5-6:20pm	In person Mandeville Center B-210	No	Yes

Teaching Staff

Professor Prashant Bharadwaj

- Office hour: 12:30-2:30pm Wednesdays (in person with a zoom option)
- ECON 318 or Join URL:
<https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/98558814917?pwd=bGVdNkdFVUNCeHR3bDZZcVlMTWE3Zz09>
- Email: prbharadwaj@ucsd.edu

Professor Katherine Rittenhouse

- Office hour: 12:3-2:30pm Wednesdays (in person with a zoom option)
- ECON 117 or Join URL:
<https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/98558814917?pwd=bGVdNkdFVUNCeHR3bDZZcVlMTWE3Zz09>
- Email: krittenh@ucsd.edu

Professor Alyssa Brown

- Office hour: 12:30-2:30pm Wednesdays (zoom only)

- Join URL:
<https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/98558814917?pwd=bGVDNkdFVUNCeHR3bDZZcVlmTWE3Zz09>
- Email: aab005@ucsd.edu

Each professor will only hold office hours during the weeks they are teaching.

Course elements and Grading

Course element	Percent
Writing assignments 3 writing assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due October 9 (15%), October 30 (15%), and November 20 (15%) - Open Thursday at 6:30pm PDT - Due Saturday at 6:30pm PDT 	45%
Quizzes (9 quizzes, lowest 2 quizzes dropped, 5% each) Quizzes posted on Fridays at 12pm PDT, due Sundays at 12pm PDT, during Weeks 1-10. (<i>No quiz over Thanksgiving holiday.</i>)	35%
Final exam: Free response / essay questions. MUST BE TAKEN AT REGISTRAR ASSIGNED TIME FOR YOUR CLASS; SEE WEBREG.	20%

Lecture (M/W): Lectures will consist of traditional lecture, and class discussion. Lecture will present theory/evidence and go over the papers on your reading list. The class discussion will be about a short reading or video that you must complete prior to lecture (the starred resources in your reading list). Discussion questions will be posted on the discussion board at least 24 hours prior to lecture; you're encouraged to discuss them on the discussion board with your peers.

Other classes (Tu/Th): Classes on these days will be similar to the M/W lecture. Class will not be recorded.

Discussion Board: We have a discussion board for you to ask and answer questions related to course content. Please use this discussion board rather than email unless you need to discuss a private matter. We will answer questions on the discussion board and via email within 24 hours.

Quizzes: There will be weekly timed multiple-choice quizzes in Weeks 1-10 based on the lecture, readings, and in-class discussions from the previous week. Once you start a quiz you will only have an hour to do it. You cannot take quizzes multiple times. Quizzes are designed to make sure you are keeping up with the material for the week. Quizzes will be posted on Fridays at 12pm PDT and due Sundays at 12pm PDT.

Written Assignments: Writing assignments ask you to apply class content to readings and topics that we haven't directly covered in class. All written assignments must be submitted via Canvas. Students agree that by taking this course all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.

You will be given 48 hours to complete each writing assignment. PLEASE ALLOW EXTRA TIME FOR THE FIRST SUBMISSION. We do not accept email submissions.

If you need an extension on a writing assignment because of a family/health crisis, please email us ASAP. It's much easier to give you an extension when you let us know prior to the deadline.

Final Exam: The final exam will be a written exam made up of free response / essay questions. More information will be provided closer to the exam time. If you are unable to take the final exam at the assigned time FOR YOUR CLASS, please let us know by October 15th if you would like to schedule an oral exam which all three instructors will administer. After October 15th, it is assumed that you will take the final at the assigned time by the registrar.

Administrative issues:

1. If you have a documented disability and desire accommodation, please register with the Office for Students with Disabilities. They will contact me directly with all the information I need to make this a fair classroom.
2. UCSD has automated waitlists. If you have any questions regarding adding the class, please contact the undergraduate advisors in Economics.

Cheating: If you normally rely on tutoring services or forms of cheating to excel in your coursework, please do not take this class. You will not find these services useful and We will fail you if we find evidence of cheating. We expect you to work hard and earn a grade that's fair to you and your peers.

Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Academic Integrity Coordinator. In addition to the penalties imposed by the Academic Integrity Review Board, we also reserve the right to fail students found guilty of academic misconduct.

The following are a few examples of academic dishonesty in this class:

- Having someone else complete an assignment for you or give you answers to specific questions (including the Econ Tutor or other tutoring services).
- Having someone else take your exam for you.
- Lying about having taken an exam or completed an assignment.
- Copying sentences from a website without citing it and using quotations.

You are expected to know and understand UCSD rules regarding plagiarism. Please visit this website and go through all the scenarios: <https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/faq/index.html>

If you have a question about whether something might be considered as plagiarism, please ask us.

Email Policy: You are welcome to email us if you have questions about the class. However, you are highly encouraged to read the syllabus (this document) and consult with your peers before doing so. Finally, content related questions (“Why does the demand curve shift to the left when X happens? I didn’t understand that in class”) WILL NOT be answered via email. For these, please come to office hours, or ask during or after class.

Please read the following guide on how to email faculty. This is highly encouraged.

Class Schedule and Readings:

Readings and videos with a * must be done before lecture and will be discussed during the in-class discussion. I encourage you to do all other readings prior to lecture as well. All readings are posted on Canvas. **You are only responsible for the introductions and conclusions of journal articles unless otherwise noted;** the exact pages are listed in the paper citation.

	Monday/Tuesday Lecture	Wednesday/Thurs day Lecture	Notes
Week 0 Prof. Bharadwaj			<i>Introduction to the class; instruction begins Thursday Sept 23 (Module 0)</i>
Week 1 (09/27) Prof. Bharadwaj	Module 1: Introduction	Module 2: Oaxaca Decomposition	
Week 2 (10/4) Prof. Bharadwaj	Module 3: Becker model 1	Module 4: Becker model 2	Writing Assignment 1 Due Saturday 10/9
Week 3 (10/11)	Module 5: Statistical	Module 6: Statistical	

Prof. Bharadwaj	model	model	
Week 4 (10/18) Prof. Bharadwaj	Module 7: Critiques	Module 8: Review	
Week 5 (10/25) Prof. Rittenhouse	Module 9: Race & employment I	Module 10: Race & employment II	Writing Assignment 2 Due Saturday 10/30
Week 6 (11/1) Prof. Brown	Module 11: Gender	Module 12: Affirmative action	
Week 7 (11/8) Prof. Brown	Module 13: Health	Module 14: Asian Americans	<i>No class Thursday (Veterans Day)</i>
Week 8 (11/15) Prof. Brown/ Prof. Rittenhouse	Module 15: LGBT	Module 16: Police use of force	Writing Assignment 3 Due Saturday 11/20
Week 9 (11/22) Prof. Rittenhouse	Module 17: Racial profiling	Module 18: Policy solutions	<i>No class Thursday (Thanksgiving)</i>
Week 10 (11/29) Prof. Bharadwaj	Module 19: Discrimination outside US	Module 20: Discrimination in Economics/Wrap Up	

Module 0 (Th September 23): Class Introduction / Econometrics Catch-Up

- Syllabus
- Egap, “10 things to know about reading a regression table”: topics 1-4
- Evans, “How to interpret regression coefficients”

Module 1 (M Sept 27): How Economists Think About Discrimination

- * “How disadvantaged neighborhoods amplify racial inequality”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=IYSc7oNotfQ>
- Daly et al. “Disappointing Facts about the Black-White Wage Gap” FRBSF Economic Letters
- Chetty et al. Race and Economic Opportunity in the United States – Executive Summary

Module 2 (W Sept 29): Oaxaca Decomposition / Profit Maximization Review

- * Exercise 1 – try to fill out missing boxes before class using Econ 1 knowledge!
- “Measuring Discrimination Oaxaca decomp”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQaA8OAlCag>
- “Maximizing Profit Practice” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQvtnjWZoig>

Module 3 (M October 4): Preference-Based Discrimination: Theory

- * “Housing Segregation and Redlining in America: A Short History”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5FB.JyqfoLM>
- Murphy, Kevin. “How Gary Becker Saw the Scourge of Discrimination.” Chicago Booth Review, University of Chicago, 15 June 2015.

Module 4 (W October 6): Preference-Based Discrimination: Evidence

- * Thompson, “School Desegregation and Black Teacher Employment.” NBER Working Paper No. 25990, June 2019. Read pages 1-3, 26-28.
- Holzer and Ihlanfeldt, “Customer Discrimination and Employment Outcomes for Minority Workers.” The Quarterly Journal of Economics Vol. 113, No. 3 (Aug., 1998). Read pages 835-837, 862-863.
- Charles and Guryan, “Prejudice and Wages: An Empirical Assessment of Becker’s The Economics of Discrimination.” Journal of Political Economy, 2008, vol. 116, no. 5. Read pages 773-777, 804-805.

Module 5 (M October 11): Statistical Discrimination I

- * “Exposing Housing Discrimination”,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rP7WBigg8Dk>
- Moro, Andrea. “Statistical Discrimination.” The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics, Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.

Module 6 (W October 13): Statistical Discrimination II

- * Bryson and Chevalier, “Is there a taste for discrimination?” VoxEU, August 2014.
- Bohren et al, “The Dynamics of Discrimination: Theory and Evidence.” American Economic Review 2019, 109(10). Read pages 3395-3400, 3426-3427.

Module 7 (M October 18): Gaps in how Economists think about discrimination

- * Darity et al. “A Tour de Force in Understanding Intergroup Inequality: An Introduction to Stratification Economics.” Review of Black Political Economy, Vol 42: 1-6, 2015.
- *Akerlof and Kranton. “Economics and Identity.” Quarterly Journal of Economics, 2000. Read Sections 1 (Introduction) 2 (Utility Function and Evidence of Identity-Related Behavior) and 4 (Identity, Economics, and Gender in the Workplace).
- Delgado and Stefancic. “Critical Race Theory: An Introduction” NYU Press, 2006.

Module 8 (W October 20): Review of Modules 1-7/tie up loose ends

Module 9 (M October 25): Race and Employment I: Observational Studies

- * “The Bell Curve Controversy”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=De_Plq3RsHU
- Neal and Johnson. “The Role of Premarket Factors in Black-White Wage Differences.” *The Journal of Political Economy*, vol. 104, no. 5, 1996. Read pages 869-871, 891-892.
- Fryer et al. “Racial Disparities in Job Finding and Offered Wages.” *Journal of Law and Economics*, University of Chicago Press, vol. 56(3). Read pages 633-637, 666-670.

Module 10 (W October 27): Race and Employment II: Audit Studies

- * Lopez, “Study: anti-Black Hiring Discrimination is as prevalent today as it was in 1989.” *Vox*, September 2017.
- Ayres and Siegelman, “Race and Gender Discrimination in Bargaining for a New Car”. *The American Economic Review*, Vol. 85, No. 3. (Jun., 1995). Read pages 304-306, 319.
- Bertrand and Mullainathan, “Are Emily and Greg More Employable Than Lakisha and Jamal? A Field Experiment on Labor Market Discrimination.” *American Economic Review*, Vol. 94 No. 4, 2004. Read pages 991-993, 1011.

Module 11 (M November 1): Gender Wage Gap: Theory and Overview, Evidence

- * “Are men and women evaluated differently in the labor market?”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2LcjoU6aAo>
- “A stunning chart shows the true cause of the gender wage gap.” *Vox*, 2018.
- Bursztyn et al. “‘Acting Wife’: Marriage Market Incentives and Labor Market Investments.” *American Economic Review*, vol. 107, no. 11, 2017. Read pages 3288-3293, 3317-3318.
- Bertrand et al (2010). “Dynamics of the Gender Gap for Young Professionals in the Finance and Corporate Sectors”. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*. Read pages 228-231, 252-254.
- Gneezy et al, “Performance in Competitive Environments: Gender Differences.” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, August 2003. Read pages 1049-1052, 1070-1072.

Module 12 (W November 3): Affirmative Action: Theory and Overview, at UC

- * “White Students’ Unfair Advantage in Admissions.” *NYT Opinions*, 2017.
- Antonovics and Backes. 2014. “The effect of banning affirmative action on college admissions policies and student quality.” *Journal of Human Resources* 49 (2). Read pages 295-296, 321-322.
- Bleemer, “Affirmative Action, Mismatch, and Economic Mobility after California’s Proposition 209.” Working paper, 2020. Read pages 1-6, 31-32.

Module 13 (M November 8): Health Disparities / Concordance

- * “Racially-biased medical algorithm prioritizes white patients over Black patients”. PBS, 2019.
- Alsan and Wanamaker, “Tuskegee and the Health of Black Men.” The Quarterly Journal of Economics (2018). Read pages 407-413, 450-451.
- Cook et al, “The Mortality Consequences of Distinctively Black Names.” NBER Working Paper No. 21625, October 2015. Read pages 1-3, 13-14.
- “Does physician diversity matter for health outcomes?”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnboQY1Dy8I>

Module 14 (W November 10): Discrimination against Asian-Americans

- * Hong and Bromwich, “Asian-Americans are being attacked. Why are hate crime charges so rare?” The New York Times, March 2021.
- Chin, “Long-Run Labor Market Effects of Japanese American Internment during World War II on Working-Age Male Internees.” Journal of Labor Economics 23:3 (2005). Read pages 491-493, 520-521.
- Hilger, “Upward Mobility and Discrimination: The Case of Asian Americans.” Working Paper, March 2017. Read pages 1-4, 28-29.

Module 15 (M November 15): LGB Discrimination

- * “Why Supreme Court’s LGBTQ employment discrimination ruling marks a ‘milestone’.” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fxh_epZ3d6o
- Aksoy et al, “Sexual orientation and earnings: How being in a partnership matters.” VoxEU, 2017.
- Burn and Martell, “Gender Typicality and Sexual Minority Labor Market Differentials.” University of Liverpool Management School Working Paper in Economics #202018, June 2020. Read pages 1-2, 27-29.
- Tilcsik, “Pride and Prejudice: Employment Discrimination against Openly Gay Men in the United States.” American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 117, No. 2 (September 2011). Read pages 586-588.

Module 16 (W November 17): Police Use of Force: Evidence

- * California’s new police use-of-force law, explained:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DeI5PPdW_vM
- Fryer, “An Empirical Analysis of Racial Differences in Police Use of Force.” Journal of Political Economy, 2019, vol. 127, no. 3. Read pages 1210-1216, 1258-1259.
- Hoekstra and Sloan, “Does Race Matter for Police Use of Force? Evidence from 911 Calls.” NBER Working Paper 26774, February 2020. Read pages 1-8, 29-31.
- Ang, “Effects of Police Shootings on Inner-City Students.” Quarterly Journal of Economics forthcoming, June 2020. Read pages 1-6, 32-33.
- Kearney et al, “10 Economic Facts about Crime and Incarceration in the United States.” The Hamilton Project, May 2014. Skim through the article and ensure you understand each fact.

Module 17 (M November 22): Racial Profiling: Evidence

- * “San Diego Law Enforcement Searches Blacks More, Finds Contraband on Them Less.” Voice of San Diego, December 2019.
- Antonovics and Knight. 2009. “A New Look at Racial Profiling: Evidence from the Boston Police Department”. Review of Economics and Statistics 91:1. Read pages 163, 177.
- Goncalves and Mello, “A Few Bad Apples? Racial Bias in Policing.” Conditionally accepted at American Economic Review, June 2020. Read pages 1-5, 31-32.
- “Smoking-gun evidence emerges for racial bias in American courts.” The Economist, January 2020.

Module 18 (W November 24): Racial Profiling, Crime, and Incarceration: Policy Solutions

- * Doleac, “Do body-worn cameras improve police behavior?” Brookings, 2017.
- Agan and Starr, “Ban the Box, Criminal Records, and Racial Discrimination: A Field Experiment.” The Quarterly Journal of Economics (2018). Read pages 191-197, 229-231.
- “Machine bias.” ProPublica, 2016.

Module 19 (M November 29): Gender Discrimination in Developing Countries

- * Jayachandran, S. “The Roots of Gender Inequality in Developing Countries.” Annual Review of Economics 2015
- * McDougal et al. “Releasing the Tide: How has a Shock to the Acceptability of Gender Based Sexual Violence Affected Rape Reporting to Police in India.” Journal of Interpersonal Violence 2018.

Module 20 (W December 1): Discrimination in the Economics Profession & Class Wrap Up

- * Wu, Alice. “Gendered Language on the Economics Job Market Forum.” AEA Papers and Proceedings, 2018.