

**ECONOMICS 383**  
**THE ECONOMICS OF DISCRIMINATION**  
**OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**WINTER 2018**

Owen Hall, Room 101, Corvallis  
TR 12:00-2:00PM (4 Credits)

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**Instructor:** Michael Jerman

Contact Information:

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Email: michael.jerman@oregonstate.edu

Office Hours:

Monday 8:30-9:30am

Tuesday 10:30-11:30am

Or by appointment

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**Course Description’:** An economic analysis of discrimination, focusing on labor market inequities for women and minorities. Historical and current trends in pay, education, and employment disparities, economic explanations for such disparities, and econometric evidence for wage and employment discrimination.

**Course Summary:** This class analyzes historical and current trends by gender and race regarding wages, occupational patterns, and unemployment rates using the tools of economics. We will discuss the explanations offered by economists and examine the writings of well-known authors with differing views. We will survey and critically evaluate the empirical evidence and analyze public policies that may be utilized to combat discrimination.

**OSU Baccalaureate Core Difference, Power, and Discrimination:** Students in Difference, Power and Discrimination courses shall:

1. Explain how difference is socially constructed
2. Using historical and contemporary examples, describe how perceived differences, combined with unequal distribution of power across economic, social, and political institutions, result in discrimination
3. Analyze ways in which the interactions of social categories, such as race, ethnicity, social class, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability, and age, are related to difference, power, and discrimination in the United States.

**Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Report historical and current trends by gender and race regarding pay, occupational patterns, labor force participation, and unemployment rates.

2. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of alternative economic explanations for gender and racial disparities in the labor market.
3. Assess the reliability of different types of empirical evidence.
4. Synthesize and weigh the evidence as a whole.
5. Analyze alternative public policies in light of the evidence.

**Prerequisites:** The prerequisite for this course are ECON 201.

**Canvas:** All announcements, assignments, and grades will be will be posted on Canvas (canvas.oregonstate.edu). This is the official website for the course, and you will be responsible for any and all information that is posted there. Therefore if you have any difficulties accessing Canvas it is imperative that you resolve them as quickly as possible by contacting the Canvas support at canvas@oregonstate.edu.

**Textbook:** The optional textbook for this course is *Poverty and Discrimination* by Kevin Lang. I recommend that everyone have access to this book in some capacity.

**Attendance:** Your grade will not formally depend on your attendance during the lectures, but you will be responsible for everything that is discussed in class. As a general rule you should NOT expect, slides, notes, or other materials to be made available outside of class.

**Quizzes:** There will be weekly quizzes that will be assigned and submitted on Canvas. The quizzes will be posted on Thursday evenings, and are due before the first class of the week (Tuesday, 12:00PM). No late quizzes will be accepted. You are encouraged to work in together in groups, but each person must submit their own quizzes.

**Exams:** The one hour, fifty minute midterm examination is scheduled for Thursday, February 1. The comprehensive final examination is scheduled for Monday, March 19 at 12:00pm. A non-graphing calculator is permitted for each exam.

No makeup exams will be given. If the midterm is missed due to a *documented* emergency the weight of the exam will be placed on final. An documented emergency that causes you to miss the final will result in an incomplete for the course. Missing either exam for a reason other than a documented emergency will result in a score of zero.

**Grades:** Your grade will be calculated based on the following weights:

Quizzes: 30%

Midterm: 30%

Final: 40%

The *minimum* letter grade that you will receive based on your weighted total of points earned is given below:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
93	90	87	83	80	77	73	70	67	63	60

**Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities:** Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at <http://ds.oregonstate.edu>. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

**Student Conduct:** You are expected to adhere to the university's Code of Student Conduct, which is available at the following website:

[http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/sites/studentlife.oregonstate.edu/files/code\\_of\\_student\\_conduct.pdf](http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/sites/studentlife.oregonstate.edu/files/code_of_student_conduct.pdf)

At a minimum, any incidence of academic misconduct (as defined by the above code) will result in a grade of "F" for the course.

#### **Tentative Schedule**

Weeks 1-4	Theory
<b>Midterm: Thursday 2/1</b>	
Weeks 5-7	Sex and Gender Discrimination
Weeks 8-10	Race Discrimination
<b>Final Exam: Monday 3/19 at 12:00pm</b>	