

ECON 383: Economics of Discrimination

Oregon State University

Winter 2021

Instructor

Michael Jerman

- Remote office hours by appointment
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Course Structure

Due to current quarantine restrictions, this course will be 100% online. The scheduled meeting time (Tu/Th 2:00pm–3:50pm) will be used for live-streamed lectures and online group activities.

Technology Requirements

To access Canvas, the library, and communicate via email, you will need a way to access the web/apps on a phone, tablet, or computer using cell or internet access. To ask a question in office hours, you are welcome to connect via Zoom with any device, or call in with a landline phone (it can be helpful to screen share in Zoom, but is not necessary). Live-streamed lectures will utilize Zoom. The links to the Zoom lectures will be provided on Canvas. To participate in Zoom classes, you will benefit from a computer with a camera and microphone. You can also participate with a cell phone with the Zoom app, or even just with a landline phone.

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:

- Explain how difference is socially constructed
- Using historical and contemporary examples, describe how perceived differences, combined with unequal distribution of power across economic, social, and political institutions, result in discrimination

- 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:

- Report historical and current trends by gender and race regarding pay, occupational patterns, labor force participation, and unemployment rates.
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of alternative economic explanations for gender and racial disparities in the labor market.
- Assess the reliability of different types of empirical evidence.
- Synthesize and weigh the evidence as a whole.
- Analyze alternative public policies in light of the evidence.

Prerequisites

The prerequisite for this course are ECON 201.

Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course.

Canvas

All 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.

Attendance

Participation in periodic in-class exercises will be recorded and may account for up to 10% extra credit.

Homework

There will be weekly homework assignments throughout the term, assigned and submitted on Canvas. No late assignments will be accepted. You are encouraged to work together in groups, but each person must submit their own assignment.

Exams

There will be one midterm examination and one comprehensive final examination, both assigned and submitted on Canvas. There will be no time limit on the exams, but they will need to be submitted before the due date and time. No makeup exams will be given. If the midterm is not submitted due to a *documented* emergency, the weight of the exam will be placed on final. A documented emergency that causes the final to not be submitted will result in an incomplete for the course. Failure to submit any 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:

- Homework: 50%
- Midterm: 20%

- Final: 30%

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

Diversity Commitment

The School of Public Policy in the College of Liberal Arts is a community that includes and values the voices of all people. As such, we recognize the social barriers that have systematically marginalized and excluded people and communities based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, socioeconomic background, age, disability, national origin and religion. We are committed to the equity of opportunities, and strive to promote and advance diverse communities. We value and proactively seek genuine participation from these historically under-represented and underserved groups, and recognize them as an essential component of creating a welcoming and rich academic, intellectual, and cultural environment for everyone.

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.

Religious Holiday Statement

Oregon State University strives to respect all religious practices. If you have religious holidays that are in conflict with any of the requirements of this class, please see me immediately so that we can make alternative arrangements.

Academic Integrity and Expectations for Student Conduct

The Student Conduct Code establishes community standards and procedures necessary to maintain and protect an environment conducive to learning, in keeping with the educational objectives of Oregon State University. Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty is prohibited and considered a serious violation of the Student Conduct Code. It is defined as an act of deception in which a Student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work or research, either through the Student's own efforts or the efforts of another. See the following link for additional information: <https://beav.es/codeofconduct>.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty. For further information, visit Student Conduct and Community Standards, or contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656.

Reach Out for Success

University students encounter setbacks from time to time. If you encounter difficulties and need assistance, it's important to reach out. Consider discussing the situation with an instructor or academic advisor. Learn about resources that assist with wellness and academic success at oregonstate.edu/ReachOut. If you are in

immediate crisis, please contact the Crisis Text Line by texting OREGON to 741-741 or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255)