Economics 339 (A01) CRN 21030  
Economics of the Family  
January 2020  
Course Outline: Preliminary

Class: MWTh: 3:30 – 4:20; DSB C 118  
Instructor: Dr. Linda Welling  
Office: BEC 346  
Telephone: (250) 721-8546; Email: lwelling@uvic.ca  
Office hours: TBA or by appointment  
Webpage: On CourseSpaces. Readings and links to useful websites, as well as lecture notes, assignments and notices, will be posted here.

Goals of course: This course provides an introduction to the economic structure of, and decision-making within, families, and the implications of these for labour market activity and social/economic policy. We will draw on analytical techniques developed in the analysis of consumer theory, labour supply, game theory, and public finance. These techniques will be developed in the context of the course material.


Supplementary texts: some material will be drawn from these, and some are interesting, relatively light reading.

Adshade, Marina (2013), *Dollars and Sex*, Harper Collins

Bryant, W. Keith and Cathleen D Zick (2006), *The Economic Organization of the Household*, 2nd edition, Cambridge University Press. This was the text in previous years and some of the material will be drawn from this book.

Frank: *Microeconomics and Behaviour* (the current text for intermediate microeconomics at UVic)


Posner, Richard (1992) *Sex and Reason*


Articles from academic journals such as *Feminist Economics* and *The Review of Economics of the Household* will also be assigned.

Pre-requisites: Econ 103 and 104, Academic Writing Requirement, or permission of the department;

Grading: Students will be evaluated on four dimensions:

1. Assignments (20%), 2-3: problems & short answer questions; due at beginning of class on due date, every 3-4 weeks. Students are encouraged to work together in deriving answers for assignments. Students may submit assignments as a group (of no more than 4 people) or individually. See university policy on plagiarism.
2. Poster presentation (group project) or paper (individual), 25%; details will be provided by January 27 .
3. Midterm, 25% or 20%*: in class, Wednesday, February 12 or Thursday February 13; depends on room availability.
4. Final exam. 30% or 35%*: scheduled by the university; the final schedule will be available online by (..? TBA)

*NOTE: The midterm and the final together are worth 55%. The midterm is worth at least 20%, and the final at least 30%; the remaining 5% will be allocated to the test on which a student earns a higher mark. You must pass the final exam to pass this course.
Grading scale:
These assessments will be graded on a percentage scale, weighted as above into a numerical score that will be converted to a letter grade as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>65-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>0-49</td>
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No letter E grades will be assigned.

For an interpretation of these grades, see the university calendar [https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-01/undergrad/info/regulations/grading.html#](https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-01/undergrad/info/regulations/grading.html#) or the entry in the ECON department’s course policies [http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/economics/undergraduate/home/courses/course-policies.php](http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/economics/undergraduate/home/courses/course-policies.php).

Course content and resources (preliminary)
(Will be updated and supplemented as the term proceeds; updates will be posted on the course webpage)

A. Introduction:
   i) What is a “family”?
   ii) families vs households (Ellickson “the Household: Informal Order Around the Hearth”
   iii) What do we know about Canadian families and households?

B. The first part of this course will review and further develop some basic microeconomic tools that we will use throughout the course.
   i. Basic consumer problem (notes from Hutchinson’s ECON 103)
   ii. decision making in the household: ME ch. 3

C: Marriage and fertility
   ME module 3

D: Market implications of household choices
   ME module 2.

E: other material as time permits.

Course policies
I expect that you have read and understood the standard course policies regarding academic integrity (plagiarism and cheating), attendance, grading, academic concessions, travel plans, students with a disability, and inclusivity and diversity; these can be found at [http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/economics/undergraduate/home/courses/course-policies.php](http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/economics/undergraduate/home/courses/course-policies.php)

In particular: 1. Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course
   2. If you have a learning disability, ADHD, mental health issue or long-term recurring physical or sensory disability, or chronic health issues, and you need academic accommodations to address barriers to your education, you need to [register with the Centre for Accessible Learning](http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/economics/undergraduate/home/courses/course-policies.php).
**Policy on email:** Emails should be limited to critical matters, such as inability to attend class, an exam, or prolonged illness, and must include the course number (ECON 339) in the subject line. Questions on course material should be asked during office hours or in class. The standard format for writing a letter must be used. This means the email should begin with a salutation (e.g. Dear Dr. Welling, or Hello, Dr. Welling, or Hi, Dr Welling), include full sentences and conclude with a signature that includes your name (e.g. “Sincerely, your full name”) and your student number. Text message lingo should not be used.

**Travel plans:** Students are advised not to make work or travel plans until after the examination timetable has been finalized. Students who wish to finalize their travel plans at an earlier date should book flights that depart after the end of the examination period. There will be no special accommodation if travel plans conflict with the examination.

**Grading Disputes:** If you have questions or concerns regarding your grade on a midterm, please provide me with a written statement together with your graded exam. In your statement you must make an argument why your written answer should receive more points. All questions should be dealt with no later than one week after the midterm is returned. After that your grade is no longer subject to change.

**Screens in the classroom:** I expect all cellphones, tablets, laptops, etc to be off and away during lectures, unless you are using them to take notes. My rationale is here: [http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0360131512002254](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0360131512002254)

**Course Experience Survey:** I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to [http://ces.uvic.ca](http://ces.uvic.ca). You will need to use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. I will remind you nearer the time, but please be thinking about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course.

1. What strengths did your instructor demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?
2. Please provide specific suggestions as to how the instructor could have helped you learn more effectively.
3. Please provide specific suggestions as to how this course could be improved.