Professor Julie Matthaei
Economics Department
PNE 423, x 2181

Objectivity is male subjectivity, made unquestionable.
--Adrienne Rich

The womanist anti-oppressionist logic is that all forms of oppression, named or unnamed, are unacceptable and derive from a common problem: the dominating impulse, which is, with effort, alchemically transmutable.
--Layli Marpayan

Education either functions as an instrument which is used to facilitate integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity or it becomes the practice of freedom, the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world.
--Paulo Freire

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The learning goals for Feminist Economics support the overarching goals for the economics major; in particular, developing the ability to engage in critical reasoning, and gaining competency in making written and oral arguments. Feminist economics is a field which criticizes both economic theory and current economic practices and institutions. Reading responses, class discussion, short oral presentations, and final projects will develop students’ abilities to think like feminist economists, and to express feminist economic analysis both orally and in writing.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Feminist economics critically analyzes both economic theory and economic life through the lens of gender, and advocates various forms of feminist economic transformation. In this course, we will explore this exciting and self-consciously political and transformative field. After a conceptual introduction to feminist and anti-hierarchical theory, we will look in some depth at seven different types of feminist economic transformation:
questioning/envisioning, equal rights and opportunity, valuing the devalued, integrative, discernment, combining, and globalizing/localizing. Our study will include feminist economic analyses of areas understudied or ignored by traditional economists -- occupational segregation by sex, the economics of the household, and caring labor -- as well as feminist economic policy prescriptions. We will also look at feminist critiques of and alternatives to mainstream economics’ methodology and view of “economic man,” the firm, and the economy itself. Other themes in the course will be racial-ethnic, class, and country differences among women, and the emergence of the solidarity economy. The class is structured to be reading- and discussion-intensive. A detailed outline of the class topics and readings is attached.

I have taught Feminist Economics here at Wellesley for many years, and have taught a version of “women in the economy” here since my second year here, 1979. Teaching this topic was an extension of my thesis research, published in An Economic History of Women in America, and teaching this course has greatly contributed to my research on gender, race, class, and feminist economics since then, including my second book, Race, Gender & Work, and my book-in-progress, From Inequality to Solidarity. I look forward to teaching and learning from you this semester!

This syllabus is in three parts: “Course Format and Process,” “Course Assignments and Grading,” and “Course Outline and Readings.” The last part describes each class meeting in detail, including the required and recommended readings/videos and assignments due for that class.

**COURSE FORMAT AND PROCESS:**

This class is structured to create a participatory and cooperative learning community. The heart of our learning together will be discussion of common readings/videos in small and large groups, supplemented by current event, country, and counterpoint presentations by students. There is an extra class meeting on Monday afternoons to allow more extensive discussion. A detailed outline of class topics, including a list of readings and videos, is included below.

**Grading, Competition, and Cooperation:** In accordance with feminist values of equality, mutuality, and care, I aspire to creating a supportive and cooperative classroom. I do not grade on the curve. My goal as teacher is for all of the students in this class to excel in their coursework and receive A’s, and I will do my best to help you do so. Students must earn their grades by applying themselves, asking for help when needed (from one another and from me), and doing their best. I encourage you to get to know one another, to view the movies together, and to help one another with your coursework, including studying together. I highly encourage you to continue our in-class discussions outside of class, and to post relevant related readings, events, etc. as they come to your attention, via our google group (ECON-343-01-FA18; please tag your email’s content in the subject line). In class, I expect you to treat one another with respect, which means giving your fellow students your full attention when they speak, and participating in class discussions in a way that is sensitive to others and supportive of their learning.
Democracy and Horizontalism: While I, as the professor, have, by necessity, set up the course structure and readings without consulting you, I welcome feedback and suggestions from students as to how to improve the course and make it more your own. To facilitate this process, we will take time throughout the semester, as needed, for evaluations of the class. Also, while I cannot avoid participating in the teacher-student inequality, which is built into the definition of my job, especially the assigning of grades, I endeavor to be as transparent as possible about the course workload and assignments, as well as the process I use to determine your grade, and am open to suggestions about that. Do not hesitate to ask me for clarification or justification of coursework, assignments, or grading.

Creating Beloved Community: Our class focuses on women’s oppression by gender, race, and class inequality, and the ways people and movements are moving past these, towards solidarity. Our class is a microcosm of this transformation. While the members of our class all share the experience of being subordinated by virtue of being female, we are also divided and stratified by race-ethnicity, class, national origin, religion, sexual preference, and more. We all have a wealth of traumatized feelings associated with living in a society organized by the inequality paradigm. Feelings of hurt and anger can arise when we connect to our experiences of being oppressed, or to those of our family members or ancestors, while upset and guilt can occur when we become aware of our privilege or unintentional prejudice. While the similarity of our experiences as women can connect us, class and racial-ethnic differences and inequality can divide us and break down the trust needed for a truly cooperative and supportive learning community. My goal for our class is to create what Martin Luther King called “beloved community,” where we come together across inequality in respect and mutual support. In our first class meeting, we will discuss, amend and adopt a set of proposed ground-rules which affirm our commitment to unlearning prejudice and learning solidarity, to protecting the confidentiality of our classmates, and to open-minded dialogue with those who have different views.

Critical Thinking, Pluralism, and Respectful Disagreement and Debate: Currently, the economics profession in the US suffers from a lack of pluralism and debate. Critiques from the left or from a feminist perspective are ignored or silenced, and rarely presented in mainstream courses. Thus, at a time when the failings of current economic practices and institutions are painfully evident, the profession has had difficulty transforming its understanding of economics and looking outside of the box for policy solutions. One of my main goals in this course is to teach you how to think critically about economics, from a feminist perspective. In contrast to other classes in the economics department, the readings and my mini-lectures and contributions will be from a left-feminist-anti-racist-ecological transformative perspective which is critical both of mainstream economic concepts and analysis, and of contemporary capitalist economic values, practices and institutions. Wellesley is unusual in having at least one faculty member – me -- whose research and teaching is nontraditional. However, for many of my students, this is the first time they encounter such critiques, and they appreciate the new perspective provided. As you take in these critical perspectives, I strongly
encourage you to challenge them – and me -- with questions and counter-arguments. The weekly reading response requires you to write about some aspect of the readings which you find incorrect, unsubstantiated, or partial, and we will discuss these critiques in class. Further, you have the option of making a counterpoint presentation which critiques feminist economics for your short presentation. I hope that this will contribute to creating an atmosphere in our class where students feel free to challenge the perspective of the teacher, the readings/videos, and one another.

Meditation: We will have a short centering exercise or meditation at the beginning of each class to center ourselves in our space and prepare for our work together. There are links to some meditation “how to’s” on the course outline, under the first class. If you feel uncomfortable participating in the day’s meditation, you can just sit or read quietly. Let me know if you have ideas for other forms of meditation or consciousness-centering for our class, and/or if you would like to lead the class in one of these.

Healthy Snacks: During our long class meetings, on Thursdays, we will have a break for snack around 4 pm. Students will take turns bringing healthy snacks to share. Healthy means foods without processed sugar, or empty (nutrition-less, often highly fatty) calories. Common choices are crackers or chips with cheese or salsa or humus, veggies like carrot sticks or celery, and fresh fruit (bananas and apples are easy). Organic is preferred (better for ourselves, for farm workers, and for earth), but not required. Each student will bring snack for one class meeting, along with one or two other students. Students should bring their own drinks. You will sign up for a date early in the semester. If your budget makes it difficult for you to bring the snack, keep your receipts, and I can get department funds to reimburse you.

Meet with Me! As you know, one of the great advantages of Wellesley is small classes which allow professors to get to know and respond to their student’s particular interests and needs. I strongly encourage you to meet with me individually at least once during the semester. I have formal office hours on Mondays after class (5:20-6 pm), and Thursdays after class (5:20-6:30 pm). If these hours don’t work for you, I am very happy to make an appointment to see you at a time that is more convenient for you. You can come in with a question, or just to talk. My office is on the 4th floor of Pendleton East (PNE423). I also invite you to email me with questions and comments.

Getting To Know Your Fellow Students outside of class helps create a strong learning community for our class. I encourage you to try to get to know your classmates (you can start with the ABOUT US google doc), and to study and view videos together. If you have an administrative question about the class, or something you would like to post or discuss, email our google group (ECON-343-01-FA18) as well as me.

Class Get-Togethers: I encourage our class to organize some informal lunches and/dinners, in Lulu or the dorms. At the end of the term, my husband Germai and I will host a class dinner party at my home at Cornerstone Cohousing in Cambridge.
Excused Absences or Late Work: Students who have a valid reason for not completing a course requirement on time -- such as physical or mental illness, or a family or friend emergency -- will not be penalized. However, to guarantee receiving full credit for a late assignment, you must contact me by email before the due date in question and request special consideration and an extension, which may or may not be granted. Otherwise, late work will be penalized, especially late reading responses.

Teaching Technology: I will be using Sakai, our google doc folder, and our google group to assist me in teaching you this semester. The syllabus, readings, reading responses, and assignments will all be done through Sakai. If you have technical difficulty submitting your completed work to Sakai by the due date, email it to me immediately, before the due date, with a clear subject heading, and then figure out how to submit it to Sakai. All coursework must be submitted to Sakai to receive credit. Documents we will be creating together, including sign-up sheets and postings from class (discussion questions and evaluations), will be in our class google folder, Feminist Economics, Fall 2018. Our google email group (ECON-343-01-FA18) will be used for emails from me to the class, or from students to the class, including notices, questions, current events, and discussions of issues.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

This section provides you with a complete description of the required work for Feminist Economics. I will supplement it with hand-outs posted on Sakai and in our Google Folder. If anything is unclear, or you would like more of a “prompt” for an assignment, let me know.

Overview of Coursework: Student assignments in this class are designed with a three-fold purpose: 1) to develop and stretch your capacities and learning of the topic of feminist economics; 2) to give me way to grade you, as I am required to do; and 3) to give you the experience of contributing to the learning of others, both in the classroom, and in the larger community.

The workload in this class is heavy, because of the extensive reading required and required weekly reading responses. Since this is not primarily a lecture course, your learning will be highly dependent on the effort you put into the course, particularly into the reading assignments, class discussions, and group paper or project. As students in former classes have noted, the assignments are very useful for students’ learning, and are manageable if you keep up with them. However, this is definitely not the type of course where you can postpone your work until the end of the semester and have a productive learning experience.

Shared Readings: The readings on this syllabus represent a major part of your education in feminist economics, and of your work for this class. Readings for each class meeting, both required and suggested (suggested readings have **), are detailed below. Note that the reading load is heavy, especially for an economics course, but that students usually find the readings to be worthwhile.
The core of the class is discussion, based on shared readings and viewing of videos. Required readings and viewings need to be done before the class in question, so that we all come to class with a shared foundation for discussion. Make sure to budget enough time to do the week’s reading and viewing before class. In past classes, students have sometimes arranged to watch videos together, and/or with other friends. I encourage this as a way to get to know one another, and to share and discuss your responses.

Three books which are required reading for the course are available for purchase at the bookstore: Francine Blau, Marianne Ferber, and Anne Winkler’s, The Economics of Women, Men, and Work (8th edition; 7th edition is acceptable, but data will not be as current); Nancy Folbre’s The Invisible Heart, and Julie Nelson’s Economics for Humans. The first two will also be available in Knapp Reserves, and Nelson is available in e-form. All required readings other than those in the required textbooks will be available on Sakai, or on the internet. Readings in Sakai will be posted by under the Resource tab, by class; videos and movies, if not on the internet directly, can be accessed via the Sakai, Media Gallery, Site Library tab. Please email both me and the class google group for help if you can’t locate a reading or video.

Class Attendance and Participation: This seminar requires the active and informed participation of all of the students. Class attendance is required. If you miss more than four classes, you may not receive credit for the class, depending on your excuse and your ability to make up missed work. Attendance will also affect your participation grade. While we will not have enough time in class to discuss all aspects of the assigned readings and movies, class discussions play a key role in helping you transform your reading and viewing into learning that is meaningful for you and others.

Students are expected to come to class having read the required readings and completed reading responses, and to participate actively and constructively in class discussions, using their reading responses or response papers as a springboard. While I will take responsibility for keeping the day’s discussion “on track,” each student is responsible for helping shape the direction of the class discussion, both by building on what others have said, and by bringing up topics they think merit attention. Constructive class participation means keeping an eye on the direction the discussion is taking, and helping the class bring ourselves back to the topic at hand. It also means pushing yourself to participate if you tend to be shy and withdrawn, and holding yourself back so as to give everyone a chance to talk if you are talkative. It means striving to be honest, thoughtful, open-hearted, and respectful of others, including listening respectfully and open-mindedly to others as we discuss these challenging topics that are dear to our hearts.

I encourage respectful and constructive disagreements and debates, and I particularly urge you to speak up when you disagree with me, or with an apparent consensus in the class, on a particular issue. I also encourage you all to play “devil’s advocate,” and to raise contrasting perspectives on issues from other classes, including but not limited to economics and women’s studies, and to present a counterpoint. This will help you integrate your learning in this class with your economics majors. Respect for diversity of
opinion is also important because we are looking at women’s/feminist issues, yet women (including the women in our class) all have very different experiences of womanhood, particularly due to racial-ethnic, religious, class, sexual preference, and nationality differences. This diversity of experience is a wonderful resource for our class, if we cultivate an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust.

To create a safe classroom environment where students are able to share their personal experiences as well as their thoughts, all are required to practice confidentiality when they talk to others about our class. This means not conveying information about the class in such a way as to connect particular students with particular comments, unless it is obvious that there is no need to withhold their identity.

Clarifying questions are always welcome. We all come to the class with different backgrounds and abilities, and will have to work, especially at the beginning, on developing a shared vocabulary and conceptual framework. Also, your requests for clarification will probably be helpful to others who share the confusion, as well as often to me or to the speaker in question, who may not have thought out her statement completely. If we don’t have time to fully clarify the point at that moment, I will try to find a way to clarify it after class or in the next class meeting. I invite you to continue class discussions through the google group, and to talk to or email me with questions as well (you may get a quicker response from your classmates to technical questions such as where is the exam posted, so I advise you to email our google group first with such questions).

Class participation also includes emailing things to our google group (ECON-343-01-FA18): related material or links or comments, and responding to your classmates’ questions and requests for help. However, the latter does not substitute for speaking up in class. If you would like help with the latter, let me know so we can find a solution.

Class participation counts for 15% of your final grade. By Dec. 11, the last day of classes, each student will submit a suggested grade for her class participation, accompanied by a 250-500 word explanation of why she thinks she should receive this grade, referring to the criteria discussed above. I will take self-grades into consideration when I assign participation grades.

**Reading Responses:** Reading responses on the week’s reading assignments are due on Thursdays, before class, and one Monday, September 10th. Students are required to do the week’s readings and viewings, and complete and post the week’s reading response before the class in question. Class discussions are meant to clarify, build on, and debate the readings for the day. The reading responses prepare students for class discussions, for they force students to read, think about, and digest the readings, and begin to apply them to their lives.

I will prepare a folder in Sakai under the Resource tab for each class that has readings. In it, I will put a copy of the week’s readings and assignments, as specified in the syllabus. I will also put a copy of the week’s reading response. These sheets are meant for you to
record and think about your reactions to the readings, in preparation for class discussion. I do not require polished writing on them. For full credit, you are required to answer all questions, write at least 750 words, and post your reading response to Sakai before class begins. Many students write much more than 750 words, using the exercise as a way to engage with the readings and integrate them into their lives. You do not have to organize and edit your answers, unless they do not express your thoughts comprehensibly.

For classes where there are numerous short readings, I will indicate on the reading response which readings we will focus on in class discussion, to guide you in your preparation for class. If you want more guidance in writing your reading response, try answering some of the questions for that class which are listed on the syllabus.

When you have finished your reading response, upload it to Sakai in word format. Since these weekly papers are required and contribute importantly to the success of class discussions, up to 0.1 points will be deducted from your final grade if you have not answered all of the required questions, 0.1 points will be deducted for a late reading response, and 0.2 points for one that is not handed in, out of a 4 point scale. Each student can submit one late reading response, without penalty.

**Portfolios:** You will choose four of your best reading responses to submit, unedited, in your two portfolios. To be included in your portfolio, your reading responses must have been submitted on time. For your Portfolio I assignment, you will post the class numbers and titles for two among the first six written (i.e. for classes 2-10), along with a short essay (250 words) evaluating your learning in the course thus far, by midnight on Monday, Oct. 12th. Then, for Portfolio II, you will choose two more, written for classes 12-23, and submit them by midnight on Tuesday, Dec. 11, the last day of classes, along with 500-750 word essay evaluating your learning in the course. Your portfolios will be graded, and each will count for 15% of your final grade. When grading your reading responses, beyond the basic requirements, I will be looking for some extraordinary answers or content, in terms of application of concepts to your experience; making connections with other courses/disciplines; making connections among the readings; creativity/originality; critical thinking; depth of engagement with material; emotional intelligence; or asking great questions. I will post a prompt for your evaluations of learning a week before they are due.

**Short Student Presentations:** Each student will make a 5 minute presentation in class. You can choose to make a Current Event, Counterpoint, Respondent, or Country presentation (see descriptions below). In order to use your time well, you may want to read a prepared statement, but this is not required. Early in the semester, students will sign up for these via a google doc in our google folder. Short student presentations are required, but not graded; not completing one according to the requirements will result in points off your final grade. I describe each type below.

COUNTERPOINT OR COUNTERPOINT/RESPONDENT PRESENTATIONS: Counterpoint presentations give students a chance to develop, listen to, and discuss critiques of feminist economics. Counterpoint presentations can take a number of forms:
presenting an article on the topic of that particular class meeting from a conservative perspective; presenting your own critique of one or more of the readings; presenting a mainstream economic view of the topic or a mainstream economic critique of the analysis in the readings; or presenting a critique of the reading from a feminist point of view. You do not have to reveal whether or not you agree with the content of your presentation, but you may. A formal respondent is not required, but once a student signs up for a counterpoint, another can sign up to be her respondent, or students can sign up together for the two roles. Some places to look are for counterpoints are the Heritage Foundation and National Review websites; also, see http://www.rightwingnews.com/uncategorized/the-50-most-popular-conservative-websites/ for a list of the top 50 most popular conservative websites. If she has a respondent, the counterpoint presenter must email an outline of her presentation, plus links to any sources she is using, to her respondent and to me by midnight on Monday.

CURRENT EVENT PRESENTATIONS: For a current event presentation, a student presents a newspaper, website article, blog, or video of her choice which is related to the topic of a particular class. Current events can pertain to the U.S. or to other countries; I encourage the latter, so as to counterbalance the US focus of the class. Some suggested sources for current events are plastic.com, cnn.com, alternet, Businessweek, The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, Ms. Magazine, womensenews.org, Institute for Women’s Policy Research, New York Times, Huffington Post, feministing.com, common dreams, truthout, or websites related to the topic of the class in question (some are on syllabus). Please email links to any articles you used to the class google group by the end of the day that you present.

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS: Alone, or with another student, you can do a presentation about women/gender in the economy, and/or feminist organizing, in another country. You can focus on current events, or provide a snapshot of these issues in your country, and/or a comparison with the U.S. Two students presenting together can take 10-15 minutes. You can provide very short readings or data to the class to complement your presentation, if you like.

Test: There will be a closed book/closed notes test on the material from classes 1-10, administered via Sakai. This test will be on the material covered in these classes, requiring you to master the concepts surrounding gender hierarchical polarization and the feminist solidarity processes, as well as those of mainstream feminist economics, which are the foundation for the rest of the class, as well as more in depth analysis of the equal opportunity and valuing the devalued processes. I will hand out a review concepts sheet before the test, and have optional review sessions on Monday, Oct. 15th after class, and on Thursday, Oct. 18th during lunch. If you want help reviewing and cannot make these sessions, I will be available, as always, by appointment. The test will be available for you to take on Sakai from 5:30 pm on Oct. 18th to midnight on Monday, Oct. 22th. You will be allowed 120 minutes to download the test, take it, and then upload it to Sakai, although it will be designed to take no more than 1 hour. The test will count for 25% of your grade. If you wish, you may work on the test with one or two other students, provided you work together in the same location on all answers, and email me your
names before you take the test. It is a violation of the Honor Code to share the contents of the test with any other students before the due date.

**Final Group Project on Feminist Economic Transformation:** Your final assignment, due at midnight on Dec. 20th, the last day of exams, is project of feminist economic transformation, done with at least one other student. This is a major part of your coursework, and counts for 30% of your grade. The goal for this project is dual: both to enhance your learning of feminist economics, and to share your learning with others in a way that is furthers feminist economic transformation. The focus of your group’s work can be on Wellesley, the greater Boston area, the US, another country, or global. Your project can be a research paper or an activist project. Projects that are research papers can be conceptual, empirical, or both. Research projects include an activism component in that your group must share your findings beyond our classroom in a way that furthers feminist economic transformation. All projects will be posted on the Wellesley Solidarity website. Two or three students can work in a research project; papers should be a minimum of 20 pages for 2 students, and 25 pages for 3 students, and must include a description of how the research was put to use for feminist transformation. Activist projects must include a report to me, summarizing what your group did and why, and what you learned. From 2 to 5 students can work together on an activist project. My expectations for a particular group’s activism project will be tailored to their project. Students will write proposals, and meet with me to discuss them. You are responsible for remaining in contact with me as your project evolves after this, to make sure it fulfills my expectations. If our class so decides, we can do one research or activism project together, with subgroups working on different aspects. I will post on Sakai some student project reports done by past Feminist Economics students.

We will get started on our projects right after the test to give groups ample time to form, and develop their shared projects to completion by the end of exam period. Students will begin brainstorming together for topics on a google doc and in class on Monday, Oct. 22, and by the following Thursday, Nov. 1, they will form groups and finalize their topics. Groups will submit 2-page project proposals to Sakai by midnight on Monday, Nov. 5th, and meet with the prof to discuss them on Wed., Nov. 7 or Fri., Nov. 9. *All group members are required to attend these meetings;* sign up for a 30-min slot in our google folder. Proposals which are not approved by the prof must be rewritten and resubmitted within a week of the meeting.

We will use the Nov. 26th class meeting for groups to “workshop” their projects – i.e. present informally where they are with them to their classmates, and receive feedback. Groups will present their projects during the last two classes, Dec. 6th and 10th. If they like, they can distribute drafts or assigned readings for their classmates to read in preparation. Projects do not have to be completed by this time, and these presentations are a good opportunity to get constructive feedback from the class. Powerpoints are recommended by not required; be sure to post your powerpoint in our google folder after your presentation. Your project write-ups – either research papers or activist project write-ups, as agreed on with the prof -- are due the last day of finals, Dec. 20th, at 4 pm.
Students are encouraged to divide the labor of their final project among group members. However, all students should help conceptualize and design the project, provide feedback to the other members of their group on their work for the project, and contribute to the final write-up. *All write-ups must include a short description of the division of labor within the group.*

Here is a list of key dates for your final project:

Oct. 22-Nov.1:  In-Class and Google Discussions of Final Project Ideas
Nov. 1:  Final Project Topics Finalized in Class
Nov. 5, midnight:  2 page Final Project Proposal Due to Sakai
Nov. 7 & 9:  Group Meetings with Prof re Final Project (sign up in google folder)
Nov. 26:  In-Class Workshopping of Final Projects
Dec. 6 & 10:  Final Project Presentations, In Class
Dec. 11:  Due date for optional submitting paper drafts or project descriptions for feedback from Prof
Dec. 20:  4 pm:  Project Due

**Work Flow and Grading:** Below is a list of your main assignments with their due dates. Your final grade will be a weighted average of the grades for your test, portfolios, and final project, as per the table below. *I do not grade on the curve for this class, and encourage you to help your classmates do their best.* As noted above, points will be deducted from your final grade for data postings, current events, or counterpoint/response presentations which do not fulfill the requirements spelled out on the syllabus, including the due date and time; for incomplete, late or missing reading responses; or if you have more than four unexcused absences.

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<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
<th>SHARE OF GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Presentation</td>
<td>As assigned</td>
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<td>Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portfolio I</td>
<td>Oct. 12, 11:59 pm</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project Proposal</td>
<td>Nov. 5, 11:59 pm</td>
<td>Ungraded</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portfolio II</td>
<td>Dec. 11, 11:59 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation Self-Grade*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>Dec. 20, 4 pm</td>
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*participation grade will be assigned by professor, based on her own assessment and student’s self-grade
COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

** Readings are not required
All readings are on Sakai unless from a textbook, linked, or otherwise noted

PART I. INTRODUCTION

9/6  Class 1: Introductions to the Course, and to Each Other
What is this course about? How is it structured? Who are we? What is our background in economics? In women’s studies/feminist studies/activism? What are our passions?

** Pema Chodron, “5 Reasons to Meditate,” Shambhala Sun, Sept. 2013, and “How Meditation Helps in Difficult Times.” (Some background for our short, in-class meditations)

9/10 Class 2: Definitions of Feminism, Economics, and Feminist Economics
How do we define feminism? Are all women activists feminists? Can men be feminists? What is economics? How does radical economics differ from the mainstream, neoclassical economics in your textbooks?
What is feminist economics? How does it relate to neoclassical and radical economics?

“International Student Call for Pluralism in Economics.” 2013.
Julie Matthaei, “The Time for a New Economics is at Hand,” Al Jazeera, 3/8/15

Read over the syllabus carefully, especially the course description (email Julie with any questions; bring any issues you want to flag to class)
Fill out a line about yourself in the “Feminist Economics Fall 2018 “About Us” google doc, and check out the information of your classmates
Complete the reading response for the Class 2, and post on Sakai (and do this for all subsequent THURSDAY classes).
9/13 Class 3: Introduction to the Inequality Paradigm and the Social Construction of Gender, Race and Class

How is gender different from sex? How are gender, race, and class inequality constructed? How are they interconnected? Do women share a common oppression?

Julie Matthaei, “The Inequality Paradigm” and “Transforming Gender Inequality” (pp. 1-10 only), in From Inequality to Solidarity (book in process).+

Teresa Amott and Julie Matthaei, Race, Gender and Work, Chapter 2.+

National Center for Transgender Equality website, “Understanding Transgender People: The Basics,” and “Understanding Non-Binary People.”

Debra Chasnov ’78, “Straightlaced: How Gender’s Got Us All Tied Up,” Watch at least 15 minutes, I recommend Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, and/or 7.+


SKIM.

Go to the Project Implicit website, https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/; in the Social Attitudes box on the left, then click the GO! Box in the bottom row. Take the Gender-Career and Gender-Science IAT’s, and another one of your choice, and print out or otherwise make a note of your results. +


** Eliana Docterman, “Watch Sarah Silverman’s Risque Equal-Pay Ad,” Time, 10/8/14. Which gender inequality process is she challenging?


** Read and/or contribute to the Everyday Sexism Project, http://www.everydaysexism.com/, which has over 30,000 examples

Sign up for a current event, counterpoint, response, or country presentation, and for bringing snack in google folder.

9/17 Class 4: Further Discussion of Class 3 Topics and Readings

9/20 Class 5. Introduction to the Seven Feminist Solidarity Processes, with a Focus on Questioning/Envisioning and Combining

During the first half of this class, we will discuss the seven feminist solidarity processes which are deconstructing gender inequality. Then in the second half of the class, we will discuss the readings on early feminist questioning/envisioning and combining in the U.S. We will continue our discussion of this feminist process on Monday. Some questions for thought: Which feminist solidarity process do you most identify with, or see as most progressive or important? What injustices are being questioned and protested in these documents? What visions of a better world are present? What strategies, if any, are suggested to achieve these visions? In what ways was combining present – or absent -- within these examples of the feminist
questioning/envisioning process? (don’t panic: there are many readings, but most are quite short).

Julie Matthaei, “Fueling the Paradigm Shift: The Seven Solidarity Processes” and “Transforming Gender Inequality” (pp. 10-end), from From Inequality to Solidarity (book in process). + Rap by student in Econ 243, Spring 2010, on Inequality and Solidarity processes. TransformationCentral.org, Transformative Processes page.

The Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions 1848
http://ecssba.rutgers.edu/docs/seneca.html

Sojourner Truth, “Ain’t I A Woman?” 1851. Read the first version or see the short video. http://feminism.eserver.org/history/docs/aint-i-a-woman.txt

Betty Friedan, The Feminine Mystique (1963), Ch. 1, “The Problem that has No Name.”
The Redstockings Manifesto. 1969.


Donna Kate Rushin, “Bridge Poem;” Chrystos, “I Walk in the History of My People;”

Julie Matthaei and Irene Mata, “Wellesley’s Ever-Expanding Womanhood.” Al Jazeera. 5/5/15

http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/wlm/womid/


** Redstockings Women's Liberation Archives for Action www.redstockings.org.

9/24 Class 6. Continued Discussion of Class 5 Topics and Readings, especially Questioning/Envisioning and Combining

9/27 Class 7. Equal Opportunity in the Labor Force 1: Escaping the Traditional Sexual Division of Labor in Marriage: Married Women’s Entry into the Paid Labor Force

A key aspect of the feminist equal opportunity process is women’s striving to participate in the paid labor force, an arena previously monopolized by men. Friedan’s Feminine Mystique represented a clarion call for this.
Our main reading for this section is Part II of *The Economics of Women, Men, and Work*. Its authors are equal opportunity feminists, and mainstream economists. They try to take the “objective” or “positive” stance valued by mainstream economics, yet if you read carefully you can see a definite equal opportunity feminist focus, both in the topics covered and the way they are analyzed. The authors present the traditional, neoclassical economic analysis of the traditional sexual division of labor in the household, as originally developed by Gary Becker, as well as some feminist critiques of it, and an alternative, bargaining model. They also analyze women’s increasing participation in the paid labor force, based on this model. *This is a dense reading, so be sure to allocate adequate time to it.* The *Race, Gender, and Work* excerpt is written from a left feminist perspective, and you will note that the focus is much more on social construction of difference and inequality than on free choice.

What reasons do these readings give for the large increase in women’s labor force participation in the twentieth century? How is the latter an example of the equal rights and opportunity process?

Review Julie Matthaei, “Transforming Gender Inequality,” on equal opportunity  
Review Betty Friedan, “The Problem that Has No Name,” from *The Feminine Mystique*.  
** Francis Wooley, “Getting the Better of Becker, Feminist Economics 2:1 (available in Feminist Economics online via the library catalogue)  

10/1 Class 8. Continued Discussion of Class 7 Topics and Readings


How have feminists fought their way into traditionally masculine jobs? How is the concept of “sex discrimination” feminist? How have anti-feminist economists used human capital theory and biology to explain – and justify -- the existence and persistence of occupational segregation by sex and the gender earnings gap? How can these latter also be explained by gender roles in the family, and gender socialization? What different forms does sex discrimination take in the labor market, and what are some of the ways feminists are successfully fighting against it? How is sexual harassment a feminist economic issue, and what is a feminist economic analysis of the #metoo movement?

Our main reading for this class is the Blau, Ferber, and Winkler text; again, this is a dense, time-demanding reading, which reflects an equal opportunity feminist lens.

The Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR), “*The Gender Wage Gap by Occupation 2017 and by Race and Ethnicity*.”


** Read one of these student papers from spring 2013: Tiffany Quan and Connie Shen, “Kitchen Dynamics: Gender (In)Equality and the Culinary World,” or Dana Lee, Tess Ruderman, and Katrina Tarmidi, “Funny Women: A Feminist Economic Analysis of Women in Comedy.”


** EEOC.gov, “Carrols Corp. to Pay $2.5 Million to Settle EEOC Sexual Harrassment and Retaliation Lawsuit,” in Sakai, and browse website.


** “Made in Dagenham” and “North Country,” films depicting actual feminist equal opportunity struggles

10/8 FALL BREAK, no class


How is women’s caring labor devalued by current economic institutions? How is it devalued by current economic theories and accounting processes? What remedies have been suggested? Are women choosing to leave careers because they value full-time mothering, or because their careers are so family-unfriendly? How do low-income women struggle to value the devalued?

Review Julie Matthaei, “Transforming Gender Inequality,” on valuing the devalued


Marilyn Waring, “Who’s Counting” (Film), first 30 minutes.


** Rebecca Solnit, “Listen up, Women Are Telling Their Story Now,” about women standing up to violence vs. women in 2014.

FIRST BRAINSTORM ABOUT GROUP PROJECTS AT END OF CLASS

10/12 PORTFOLIO I DUE, midnight

10/15 Class 11. Continued Discussion of Valuing the Devalued (optional REVIEW SESSION for test from 5:20-6 pm)

10/18 OPTIONAL REVIEW SESSION, 12:30-1:20

10/18 Class 12. The Integrative Process: Combining Work and Family, and Masculine and Feminine

How have women begun to integrate and balance paid work and family life? How do their options and strategies vary, according to their class? What policies have feminists advocated for? Are both Slaughter and Sanberg integrative feminists?

According to Vandana Shiva, Gandhi used to say a prayer each day, “Make me more womanly.” Why and in what ways are people beginning to combine masculine and feminine qualities? How are marriages becoming more symmetrical and equal? What do you think of this aspect of the integrative process?

Review Julie Matthaei, “Transforming Gender Inequality,” on the feminist integrative process

Blau, Ferber, and Winkler, Ch. 4, “The Family as an Economic Unit,” pp. 66-76, and Ch. 16, “Balancing the Competing Demands of Work and Family.”

Ann-Marie Slaughter, “Why women still can’t have it all,” The Atlantic, July/August 2012.

Sheryl Sanberg, “Why we have too few women leaders,” TED talk, Dec. 2010.

Julie Nelson, *Feminism, Objectivity, and Economics*, Ch. 1, “Thinking about Gender and Value”


The Motherhood Manifesto (short movie)


** Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, “The American Opportunity Agenda: Expand Paid family and Medical Leave,” Bill proposed in the U.S. Senate.

** Look at the [Families and Work Institute Website](http://www.familiesandwork.org).

** BRAINSTORMING OF POSSIBLE FINAL GROUP PROJECTS

TEST, self-scheduled, from 5:30 pm on Thursday 10/18 through 4 pm on Monday 10/22

10/22 Class 13. Continued Discussion of the Integrative Process

10/25 Class 14. Discernment I: Rethinking and Restructuring Masculinity and the Traditionally Masculine Sphere: Labor Force Participation, the Firm, the Economy, and Economics from a Feminist Perspective

Building on the previous processes, feminists are beginning to rethink the basic ways in which the paid economy is structured, including the “negative masculine” values that underlie it, such as profit-maximization and competitive careerism. They are also critiquing core concepts of mainstream, neoclassical economics.

Review Julie Matthaei, “Transforming Gender Inequality,” on discernment


** Jenny Cameron and J.K. Gibson-Graham, “Feminizing the economy: metaphors, strategies, politics.” *Gender, Place and Culture*, Figures 1 and 2 only.

** Gudrun Schyman, Co-Founder of Sweden’s Feminist Initiative Party, [Interview](http://www.democracynow.org) on DemocracyNow.org, 7/3/14.

** Barbara Brandt, “Less is more: A call for shorter work hours,” Utne Reader July/August 1991.

** Drue Barker and Edith Kuiper, eds. Towards a Feminist Philosophy of Economics. Skim.

FURTHER DISCUSSION OF FINAL GROUP PROJECTS; POST IDEAS IN GOOGLE FOLDER BEFORE CLASS

10/29 Class 15. Further Discussion of Feminist Discernment Process in the Economy

11/1 Class 16. Discernment II: Rethinking and Restructuring Femininity and the Traditionally Feminine Sphere: Marriage Relationships, Parenting, Consumption, and Caring Labor

How have feminists begun to rethink and transform love, family life, marriage, and parenting? If caring labor is monetarily valued, does the caring aspect disappear? How does the mothering, caring aspect of femininity expand into social activism?

Julie Nelson, Economics for Humans, Chapter 4 and pp. 116-119.
Nancy Folbre, The Invisible Heart, Chapters 5 and 6; Ch. 7 recommended.
Alice Walker, reading excerpt from her poem, “Democratic Womanism,” on Democracy Now,


** bell hooks, Feminism is for Everyone, Ch. 17, “To Love Again: The Heart of Feminism”

** Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, Poem for Climate Justice. Read at UN Climate Summit, October 2014.

** George Carlin, “On Patriarchy,” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5i1W0z2Zdqs, start at minute 13 to end (humor)


FINAL PROJECTS FINALIZED, IN CLASS

11/5 Class 17. Continued Discussion of Feminist Discernment in the Family and Continued Discussion of Final Projects

11/5 MIDNIGHT: TWO PAGE FINAL PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE TO SAKAI; SIGN UP IN GOOGLE FOLDER FOR MEETING WITH PROF ON 11/7 OR 11/9

11/7 Final Project Group Meetings with Prof
11/8  Class 18.  (Differentiating and) Combining

   How are women’s experiences of gender oppression differentiated by race and class?  How has “the women’s movement” dealt with these differences?  To what extent does feminism imply a commitment to transform all types of oppression?  What factors have brought men into feminism?  What is womanism?  How is it different from feminism?


** Laurie Penny, “Don’t worry about the glass ceiling – the basement is flooding.” New Statesman, 7 27/11.  
** Susan Faludi, “Facebook Feminism, Like It or Not,” The Baffler.  

11/9  Final Project Group Meetings with Prof

11/12  Class 19.  Continued Discussion of Combining

11/15  Class 20.  The Globalizing/Localizing or Glocalizing Process

Women have been coming together across the world in transnational feminist groups to struggle together for equal rights and against fundamentalism; against the political and economic practices of “neoliberalism” which have been increasing the impoverishment of
women and children, and destroying the earth; for reproductive rights; and against male violence, and war. They are practicing the combining process, and indeed all of the other processes, on a global scale, in response to neo-liberal globalization and to the actions of international institutions like the IMF, World Bank, and WTO. Many of these feminist groups, including feminist economists involved in AWID (Association for Women’s Rights in Development), are interconnected with the global justice movement and the World Social Forum process, which, under the motto “Another World is Possible,” strives for a diverse world based on relations of mutual respect, solidarity, equality, democracy, and economic, social and political justice for all. The UN, through CEDAW and UN Women, is also playing an important role.

Review Julie Matthaeci, “Transforming Gender Inequality,” on glocalizing


** The Bamako Appeal, 2006. Skim, and read especially section on women, pp. 10-11. (This is the statement by many of the groups and leaders of the World Social Forum and Anti-Globalization Movement).


11/19 Class 21. Further Discussion of Glocalizing
11/22 NO CLASS: Thanksgiving
11/26 Class 22. Workshopping Final Papers and Projects
11/29 Class 23. Feminism, R/evolution, and the Solidarity Economy

The various feminist economic processes, and the individuals and feminist movements allied with them – in conjunction with anti-racist, environmental, worker,
peasant, peace, LGBT, disability, indigenous, and other anti-oppression movements – are beginning to create a shift from identity politics to solidarity politics, and new kinds of economic values, practices and institutions which move beyond the inequality paradigm. These diverse practices and institutions, and the social movements and networks that advocate for them, are beginning to be called “the solidarity economy,” a feminist economy that is growing up in the midst of more traditional, capitalist institutions.

Julie Matthaei, “Feminism and Revolution: Looking Back, Looking Forward,” and Roundtable discussion, Great Transition Initiative, Tellus Institute, 2018
See short video on the Self-Employed Women’s Association, SEWA
On the RIPESS (Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy) website, read “About Us” and the RIPESS Charter.
** Cat Johnson, “Seoul: The Next Great Sharing City?” 7/16/13
** Ray Anderson, CEO, Interface carpet company, YouTube excerpt from interview in “The Corporation.” +

12/3 Class 24. Further Discussion of Feminism, R/evolution and the Solidarity Economy
12/6 Class 25. Final Paper and Project Presentations
12/10 Class 26. Final Paper and Project Presentations
12/11 midnight: Portfolio II and Participation Self-Grades due to Sakai
12/20, 4 pm: Final Papers or Projects due to Sakai