

**ECON 345**  
**Economics of the Family**  
**Department of Economics, SHSS**  
**Nazarbayev University**  
**Fall 2016**

**Instructor:** Dana Bazarkulova  
**Office:** #8507  
**Office Hours:** TTh 1-2 p.m. or by appointment  
**Email:** [dana.bazarkulova@nu.edu.kz](mailto:dana.bazarkulova@nu.edu.kz)

**Lecture:** TTh 10:30 AM-11:45 AM  
**Classroom:** 8.305

**Important dates:**

FIRST DAY of Classes 15 August  
Last day to ADD 19 August  
Last day to DROP 26 August  
HOLIDAY - Constitution Day 30 August  
Mid Term Report due to OR 8 October  
Fall Break 10-14 October  
WITHDRAWAL Deadline 19 October  
LAST DAY of class 25 November

**Course description:** This course aims to examine theoretical and empirical studies of economics structure and decision –making of families. Household dynamics will be studied with the emphasis on the concepts of family formation, intra-household resource allocation, divorce, fertility, investment (human capital and physical capital), and labour supply decisions. Lastly, we will evaluate the effects of various governmental policies that affect fertility and family formation within these frameworks.

**Pre-Reqs:** ECON 101 Introduction to Microeconomics (C- and above)

**Required Textbook**

Hoffman Saul & Averett, Susan (2016) Women and the economy. Family, work and pay, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Macmillan education.  
Browning, Martin, Chiappori, Pierre-André and Weiss, Yoram (2011) Family Economics,  
[http://www.cemmap.ac.uk/resources/chiappori/paper\\_1.pdf](http://www.cemmap.ac.uk/resources/chiappori/paper_1.pdf)

**COURSE ASSESSMENT DURING THE TERM:**

Midterm Exam, closed book	25%	4 October, in class
Research proposal	30%	15 September, 10 October, 1 November
Presentation	10%	Last two weeks of classes
Final exam, closed book	30%	TBA by the registrar's office
Attendance	5%	Every class
Total	100%	

**Midterm exams**

The date for midterm exam is fixed. If you don't have a valid excuse (documented medical or family emergency only) for missing the exam, you will get a zero grade. If you provide a valid reason for missed midterm exam I will allocate 25% towards the final exam. No make-up exams are allowed.

**Final exam**

If you miss a final exam (documented medical or family emergency) I will make a decision about your grade according to the NU grading policy.

**Research proposal**

I will provide you with list of topics related to the course content. You will form groups of 2-3 people and choose one topic per group. In the end of the term you will submit research proposal on the chosen topic. The grade for the research proposal will consist of three parts:

Part 1 (5 points), deadline 15 September, you will need to arrange a meeting with me to discuss the topic and ask questions. I will provide you with my schedule later. I will allow meetings after deadline, but the grade will be zero.

Part 2 (10 points), deadline 10 October, proposal draft will include research question and basic literature survey. The papers you find for your project must be also provided to me. I will reduce marks for late submissions.

Part 3 (15 points), deadline 1 November, project proposal will be submitted for grading. I will reduce marks for late submissions.

**Presentation**

The presentation of the research proposal will be in class, during last two weeks of classes. I will ask you to choose 15-minutes time slots. The grade will be distributed as 8% for your own presentation and 2% for peer-evaluation of other presentations.

**Attendance**

Regular attendance is expected and will be monitored every class. Students who miss 10 or more classes will not be allowed to write the final exam. The cumulative grade for attendance will be 5%.

**There will be no extra credit opportunity in this course.**

**The standard grading scale will apply:**

Your course grade is determined by the weighted average of assignments and test scores according to the following scale:

A	95-100	A-	90-94
B+	85-89	B	80-84
B-	75-79	C+	70-74
C	65-69	C-	60-64
D+	55-59	D	50-54
F	0-49		

**COURSE POLICIES****Grade appeal**

The appeal of any term work must be done within 1 week of receiving marks. In person only.

**Communication and E-mail policy**

I will post all study materials in the Moodle. All course notifications, due dates and grades will be posted there too.

**IMPORTANT: Your e-mails MUST include your full name, student ID, group number in the subject line. Email me only from your @nu.edu.kz account. I will ignore any email from private email addresses.** I will appreciate if you e-mails will include proper greetings and polite, clear questions.

Please restrict e-mail correspondence to the course management issues. E.g. email me in case if you are sick or have a family emergency and cannot come to the class or test in time. Ask any questions regarding course material, tests and assignments in/after class or during office hours in person.

Usually I reply emails fairly within a day or two. If you don't get a reply in two days, please send me a reminder.

**Discipline**

You are required to turn off your cell phone in class. No texting, talking on the phone, playing games, listening to the music, or web-browsing. Pokemon Go is prohibited in class.

Using cell phone as a calculator during the test is strictly prohibited.

**Academic Dishonesty**

I do not tolerate cheating. Any student who is caught cheating on the test will get a zero grade and will be reported to the SHSS disciplinary committee. **Any cases of academic misconduct will be handled in accordance with the procedures of Nazarbayev University**

**Tentative Course Outline:**

Matching on the Marriage Market

Investment in Schooling and the Marriage Market

The gains from marriage

Marriage and divorce – assortative matching and inequality

Non-traditional family units – rise of single parent, cohabitation and LGTB homes

The economics of fertility

Fertility and the interaction of quality and quantity

Cost of children, investment in children

Non-marital and teen fertility

Birth control and women's education, marriage, and work

Division of labor in family – household time use over time, household production

An economic model of women's labor force participation

Labor force participation of women in the USSR

Taxes and transfers

Children, childcare costs, and women's labor force participation

Intergenerational ties

**I am looking forward for the Fall 2016 semester. You are welcome to contact me if you have any questions and concerns. Good luck!**