

University of Toronto  
Department of Economics

ECO332S: Economics of the Family  
Winter 2011

Instructor: Aloysius Siow  
Office: 301, 150 St. George St.  
Office hours: Wed 4-6 pm

Lectures: W9-11  
Tutorial: F9-11 (mandatory)

This course **USES MICROECONOMICS** to study the economics of the family, including marriage, divorce, children, single parenthood and gender roles.

\*\*\*\*\* Test and exam are open book. Also bring a calculator.\*\*\*\*\*

*Prerequisite:* ECO200Y or equivalent; ECO220Y or equivalent

*Grading scheme:* 1 midterm (50%), 1 final (50%)

*Class notes and readings on blackboard*

Jan 12            Specialization in marriage

Waite, Linda J. Does marriage matter? *Demography*, 32(4), 1995. p. 483-488.  
Stevenon, Betsey, "Divorce laws on marriage specific capital".

Jan 19            Children as public goods

Lundberg, Pollak and Wales (1997), "Do Husbands and Wives Pool their Resources?", *Journal of Human Resources*, p. 463-480

Jan 26            Unitary models of parental investment

Hongbin Li & Mark Rosenzweig & Junsen Zhang, 2008. "Altruism, Favoritism, and Guilt in the Allocation of Family Resources: Sophie's Choice in Mao's Mass Send Down Movement,"

Feb 2            Nature versus nurture

Sacerdote: NATURE AND NURTURE EFFECTS ON CHILDREN'S  
OUTCOMES

Feb 9            Quantity and quality of children

Bailey: Electrification and the baby boom.  
Alabanesi and Olivetti: Baby boom II

- Feb 16 Mid term (open book and notes)
- Feb 23 Gender Neutral Marriages I.  
Francis, Andrew M. "[Sex Ratios and the Red Dragon: Using the Chinese Communist Revolution to Explore the Effect of the Sex Ratio on Women and Children in Taiwan.](#)"
- Mar 2 BSV slides  
Readings: Large Shocks and Small effects in the Marriage Market.
- Mar 16 GNM II  
Stevenson, Betsey and Justin Wolfson (2000), "Till Death do Us Part: Effects of Divorce Laws on Suicides, Domestic Violence and Spousal Murder"
- Mar 23 Differential Fecundity & Marriage I  
Readings: Age of menarche, marriage and female education  
Children and Female earnings
- Mar 30 Reproductive technologies and the family  
Readings: Delaying infertility and female earnings.  
Pill and Female Earnings
- April 6 Dowries and other institutions.