

Syllabus

for course at first level

The Economics of Discrimination
The Economics of Discrimination

7.5 Higher Education
Credits
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	EC2107
Valid from:	Spring 2009
Date of approval:	2008-12-11
Department	Department of Economics
Subject	Economics
Specialisation:	G1F - First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

This syllabus was approved by the Board of the Department of Economics on December 11, 2008.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
210A	The Economics of Discrimination	7.5

Course content

Not all difference results from discrimination. Not all discrimination results in observable differences. This course focuses on issues of difference and discrimination associated mainly with race and gender, focusing particularly (but not exclusively) on the labour market. We will apply economic theory to the labour market and consider alternative economic theories of discrimination. We will examine empirical evidence on earnings and employment outcomes and we will look carefully at the ways in which econometrics has been used to address questions of discrimination.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student is expected to be able to:

- Describe the direct and indirect effects of discrimination in the labour market.
- Understand the different implications of assuming that discrimination is due to taste versus statistical discrimination.
- Discuss the causes and consequences of Occupational Segregation.
- Explain the impact of Affirmative Action.
- Analyse the effects discrimination in other markets, like housing and education.
- Discuss the empirical literature on discrimination. The student should be able to understand the common difficulties and limitations the empirical research in this area faces.

Education

Instruction is given in the form of lectures. The language of instruction is English.

Forms of examination

The course is examined on the basis of a written examination.

Students will receive letter grades on a seven-point scale related to the learning objectives of the course:
Passing

grades are A, B, C, D and E, where A is the highest grade and E the lowest. Failing grades are F and Fx, where F is lower than Fx.

Assessment criteria:

- A (Excellent): The student has a well-developed picture of the central theories in the following areas: taste and statistical discrimination, direct and indirect effect of labour market discrimination, occupational segregation and affirmative action. The student can analyse in a completely correct and well structured way an economic question not treated in the course material and motivate which model is relevant for that particular question. The student masters the theoretical deductions of the models used. The student can discuss which conclusions can be obtained from the theoretical analysis and which limitations the theoretical analysis has. The student can accurately describe and analyse the results and approaches of the empirical literature in order to study the occurrence of discrimination in the labour market and other areas.
- B (Very Good): The student has a well-developed picture of the central theories in the following areas: taste and statistical discrimination, direct and indirect effect of labour market discrimination, occupational segregation and affirmative action. The student can properly discuss the conclusions that can be obtained from the theoretical analysis and its limitations. The student can accurately describe and analyse the results and approaches of the empirical literature in order to study the occurrence of discrimination in the labour market and other areas.
- C (Good): The student has a good understanding and can completely describe the central theories in the following areas: taste and statistical discrimination, direct and indirect effect of labour market discrimination, occupational segregation and affirmative action. The student can accurately describe part of the results and approaches of the empirical literature in order to study the occurrence of discrimination in the labour market and other areas.
- D (Satisfactory): The student has a good understanding and can completely describe the central theories in the following areas: taste and statistical discrimination, direct and indirect effect of labour market discrimination, occupational segregation and affirmative action. The student can describe part of the results and approaches of the empirical literature in order to study the occurrence of discrimination in the labour market and other areas.
- E (Adequate): The student can describe part of the central theories in the following areas: taste and statistical discrimination, direct and indirect effect of labour market discrimination, occupational segregation and affirmative action. The student can describe part of the results and approaches of the empirical literature in order to study the occurrence of discrimination in the labour market and other areas.
- Fx (Inadequate): The student can only describe fragments of the central theories in the following areas: taste and statistical discrimination, direct and indirect effect of labour market discrimination, occupational segregation and affirmative action. The student can only describe a limited part of the results and approaches of the empirical literature in order to study the occurrence of discrimination in the labour market and other areas.
- F (Totally Inadequate): The student is totally unable to describe the central theories in the following areas: taste and statistical discrimination, direct and indirect effect of labour market discrimination, occupational segregation and affirmative action. The student can only describe a very limited part of the results and approaches of the empirical literature in order to study the occurrence of discrimination in the labour market and other areas.

If students fail a course unit and receive the grade Fx or F on an examination, there are no restrictions on how many times they are allowed to retake the examination in order to obtain a grade of E or higher.

Interim

If this course is discontinued, students have the right to be examined on the course once per semester for three further semesters.

Required reading

- Articles. Full list available on the course website.