



EC272 Economics of Family Policy Course Outline

Module Aims	<p>The aim of this module is to build on students' knowledge of microeconomic principles and apply and extend that knowledge within the context of marriage and families. Students will learn what economics can contribute to understanding and explaining human decisions to work or rear children.</p> <p>In this course we will study various economic theories of household behavior. We will consider how households form and how they make fertility, investment (human capital and physical capital), and labor supply decisions. We will examine trends over time and across countries and groups. Lastly, we will evaluate the effects of various governmental policies that affect fertility and family formation.</p>						
Course Instructor	<p>Stephen McNena Top floor, Arus Bhride, St. Angela's College, Sligo E-mail: smcnen@stangelas.nuigalway.ie Telephone: (071) 919 5542</p>						
Time and Venue	<p>Lectures: Wednesday 9am-11am (Semester 2)</p>						
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• apply microeconomic concepts of optimisation to household formation and fertility decisions• analyse the the changing roles of men and women in a changing economy• identify the economic rationale for State intervention in family policy• compare and contrast how the State intervenes in family policy issues• efficiency, equity and market failure to social policy						
Course Material	<p>All materials are available at http://nuigalway.blackboard.com</p>						
Assessment	<table><tr><td>End of year Written Examination (2 hours)</td><td>60%</td></tr><tr><td>Three in-class short tests</td><td>30%</td></tr><tr><td>Attendance</td><td>10%</td></tr></table>	End of year Written Examination (2 hours)	60%	Three in-class short tests	30%	Attendance	10%
End of year Written Examination (2 hours)	60%						
Three in-class short tests	30%						
Attendance	10%						

Workload	<table> <tr> <td>Credit weighting</td> <td>5 ECTS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lecture hours</td> <td>24 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Directed study, preparation for class</td> <td>24 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preparation for in-class tests</td> <td>12 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Written examination</td> <td>2 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independent study</td> <td>38 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total workload</td> <td>100 hours</td> </tr> </table>	Credit weighting	5 ECTS	Lecture hours	24 hours	Directed study, preparation for class	24 hours	Preparation for in-class tests	12 hours	Written examination	2 hours	Independent study	38 hours	Total workload	100 hours
Credit weighting	5 ECTS														
Lecture hours	24 hours														
Directed study, preparation for class	24 hours														
Preparation for in-class tests	12 hours														
Written examination	2 hours														
Independent study	38 hours														
Total workload	100 hours														
Textbooks & Readings	<p>Principal textbooks</p> <p>Daly and Clavero (2002) <i>Contemporary Family Policy in Ireland and Europe</i></p> <p>Hoffman and Averett (2009) <i>Women and the Economy: Family, Work, and Pay</i>, 2nd ed. Pearson.</p> <p>The following general social policy textbooks are also useful:</p> <p>Barr, N. (2004) <i>The Economics of the Welfare State</i>, 4th ed., Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Becker, Gary (1974) <i>A Theory of Marriage</i></p> <p>Blau, Ferber and Winkler (2010) <i>The Economics of Women, Men and Work</i></p> <p>Callan et. al (2006) <i>Child Poverty and Child Income Supports: Ireland in Comparative Perspective</i>. Dublin: Economic and Social Research Institute.</p> <p>Considine and Dukelow (2009) <i>Irish Social Policy</i></p> <p>Healy, S., Reynolds B., and M. Collins eds. (2006) <i>Social policy in Ireland: principles, practice and problems</i>. Revised and updated edition, Dublin: The Liffey Press.</p> <p>Kiely, G., ed. (1999) <i>Irish social policy in context</i>.</p> <p>Kiely, G., ed. (2005) <i>Contemporary Irish Social Policy</i>.</p> <p>Le Grand, J., Propper, C. and S. Smith (2008) <i>The economics of social problems</i>, 4th ed., Palgrave Macmillan.</p> <p>McCashin (2004) <i>Social Security in Ireland</i>. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan.</p> <p>National Economic and Social Council (2005) <i>The Developmental Welfare State</i>.</p> <p>NESC (2007) <i>Ireland's Child Income Supports: The Case for a New Form of Targeting</i>.</p>														
Other resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Statistics Office www.cso.ie • Eurostat • The OECD www.oecd.org • The Economist • The Economic and Social Research Institute www.esri.ie • National Economic and Social Council www.nesc.ie 														
Topics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Trends in marriages, family formation and fertility in Ireland 2 The economics of Marriage 3 The economics of Fertility 4 Women At Work - Female Labour Force Participation 5 The treatment of Marriage and Families in the Taxation and Welfare systems 6 Child Income supports 7 Family Policy – Maternity leave, Parental Leave and Childcare 														