

FCS 3450

Family Economic Issues

Instructor: Beth Hunsaker Garn, M.S.

Office hours: Online or phone, by appointment

Preferred Email: Canvas Message Tool. Alternate Email: elizabeth.hunsaker@fcs.utah.edu

This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for the course. Please note that it may be modified by the instructor at any time so long as reasonable notice is provided to students of the modification. The General Course Outline may also be modified by the instructor at any time to accommodate the needs of a particular class. Should you have any questions or concerns about the syllabus, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor for clarification.

Course Webpage

The class webpage can be found on Canvas. Login at <https://learn-uu.uen.org/> or by linking through <http://www.utah.edu>. If you need help with Canvas, please call the Help Desk at (801)585-5959 or send an email to support@uonline.utah.edu.

Course Description

In this course you will gain an understanding of how an economic perspective can be used to learn more about how families make resource allocation decisions. For example, we will discuss how economic considerations influence decisions about the amount of schooling a person gets, whether or not to buy a home, financial investment options, and retirement savings. The course will begin with discussion of basic economic principles as they apply to family resource allocations. This will be followed by discussion of specific allocation domains and the role that market and government forces play in shaping the choices families make. In the course of these discussions, we will also examine how economic decisions that are made at the household level affect the larger society. My personal goal is to give you the tools necessary to have a positive impact on our local, state, and national economies by making sound economic decisions, including becoming a millionaire by retirement.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand basic economic and financial planning principles.
2. Apply the concepts from the course to enhance personal financial responsibility.
3. Compare and contrast differing financial opportunities.
4. Understand the cost of risk inherent in all financial decisions.
5. Use critical thinking skills to analyze data and present it in a written format.

Evaluation Methods

<u>Requirement</u>	<u>Percent of Final Grade</u>
Quizzes (4 @ 7.5% each)	30%
Projects (2@15% each)	30%
Homework Assignments (4@7.5% each)	30%
Online Participation	8%
Start Up Assignments	2%

Text

There is no required text for this online course. All of the readings can be found on Canvas. We will rely heavily on the readings for background information and some test questions will come straight from the readings. Please be prepared by completing the readings.

Exams

Exams are a comprised of multiple choice questions. Five exams will be offered but the lowest test score will be dropped. Make-up exams will *not* be offered. A missed exam means that you get no credit for it. The final exam is comprehensive and

is longer than the other tests. You may use your notes on the exam. Exams are open for 48 hours. Once you start the exam you cannot stop. You cannot save any answers after time is up so make sure you save as you go.

Projects

Four project options are available; you are responsible to **choose 2** and turn them in on the appropriate day. You must complete one project from the following group Project 1: Retirement Plan or Power Pay and the other from the following group Project 2: Stock Market or Spending Plan. You may **not** complete all 4 projects for extra credit; **extra credit is not offered**. Late projects will not be accepted. Detailed instructions for each project are on Canvas.

Homework Assignments

There are 4 homework assignments that involve solving financial problems using mathematical equations. Feel free to use your notes and the example problems on Canvas to help you solve the problems. Late homework assignments will not be accepted. An optional, comprehensive homework assignment will be available during finals week to replace a missed or low homework score.

Online Participation

Students are required to participate in class discussion through reading and posting on the discussion boards. To receive online participation credit students must post at least two posts per unit. Discussion posts must be completed during the learning module time frame (see calendar for specific dates). Discussion posts should add to the conversation, not merely agree with another students' viewpoint.

Start Up Assignments

These assignments are just to familiarize yourself with the tools we will be utilizing on Canvas. You will have to complete a short quiz on the syllabus and website, you will have to post on the discussion thread, and you will need to upload an assignment.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale is used for the course, for exams, quizzes, assignments, and your overall grade, expressed as percentages. Cut-offs exist, and I do not round up. If you receive an 86.99, you will receive a B. Do not contact me and ask me to bump up your grade; it is unethical to change standards midstride.

> 93.00 = A	80.00 - 82.99 = B-	67.00 - 69.99 = D+
90.00 - 92.99 = A-	77.00 - 79.99 = C+	63.00 - 66.99 = D
87.00 - 89.99 = B+	73.00 - 76.99 = C	60.00 - 62.99 = D-
83.00 - 86.99 = B	70.00 - 72.99 = C-	< 59.99 = E

Students with Special Needs

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Technology

As much as we have come to rely on technology it can let us down from time to time. However, technology given excuses will NOT be reason for a make up on a missed deadline. That means if your assignment is turned in late even if your computer crashed, you will receive a lowered score for it being late. Please take precautions, backing up your work, not waiting until the last minute etc. I WILL NOT MAKE ANY EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE. Please don't even ask.

Academic Honesty

All honesty and plagiarism policies established by the University of Utah will be upheld in this class. Academic misconduct in any form in this class will not be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, and/or submitting the same work for more than one course without the permission of both

instructors.

If you include information from outside the class or quotes in your written assignments, you must provide citations and a reference list. Avoid the urge to over-rely on quotes; a written assignment that is substantially made up of quoted material will not be considered to be your own work, even if you have used correct citations.

This is a very serious issue and I will not tolerate it in my classroom. If you are aware of any misconduct, please inform me immediately. Academic misconduct will be reporting to the student's college and dealt with according to University Policy, which could include expulsion from the University.

For further information about the University of Utah's policies regarding academic misconduct, please see the student handbook at www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html.

Incompletes

In order to qualify for an "Incomplete" in any University of Utah course, you must complete at least 80% of the course work *and* be in good standing (i.e., have earned at least a C on all completed work) *and* receive permission from the instructor (if you can justify to the instructor that you cannot finish the course because of circumstances beyond your control). The FCS departmental policy is that students who do not complete the work within 1 year after the granting of an 'I' will automatically receive a failing grade. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

Instructor Responsibilities

1. Be prepared for class.
2. Use a variety of teaching methods, including lecture, online discussion, video clips, etc. in an effort to create a stimulating learning environment and accommodate different learning styles.
3. Provide feedback on assignments in a timely manner.
4. Be available for individual consultation through email.
5. Reply to email within 48 hours (not including weekends or holidays).
6. Follow all University of Utah policies regarding incompletes and accommodations. No exceptions will be made to these policies.
7. Comply with the Final Exam schedule determined by the University. The Final Exam will be offered during the appointed time.
8. Treat students equitably and with respect. This includes enforcing responsible online behavior.

Student Responsibilities

You are expected to:

1. Spend 2-3 hours per credit hour in preparing for this class, including completing reading assignments & written assignments, and studying for the final exam. As this is a 3-credit course, you should plan on spending 6-9 hours per week in preparation.
2. Complete required reading assignments in a timely manner.
3. Complete class projects, tests and online discussions on time.
4. Treat one another, the instructor, the TAs, and campus staff with respect.
5. Seek help from the instructor and TAs (and other resources such as the Center for Disability Services or the Writing Center) whenever necessary, and before minor problems become major barriers to learning.
6. Refer to the syllabus and the class webpage for important information pertaining to the exam, written assignments, and class policies.

Scheduling Accommodations

Students should register for courses for which they have no scheduling conflicts. University policy allows you to make up assignments and exams if you are participating in officially sanctioned University activities, such as intercollegiate athletics. If you miss an exam or assignment deadline due to illness or a medical emergency, medical documentation (i.e., a doctor's note) must be provided in order to make up missed work.

Things to Note

1. I do not offer extra credit. So, don't ask. Extra credit assignments are unfair unless all students are permitted to do them, and then extra credit assignments simply become one more requirement for all students to complete.

2. Check your grade throughout the semester. I do make mistakes. It is your responsibility to track your grades and notify me if there is a mistake.
3. Please be considerate of others' opinions and always be respectful. Often times it is difficult to ascertain tone on an online community, so please be mindful of this when reading and writing responses.
4. Please send all correspondence to me through the mail tool on Canvas. NEVER send me an assignment through email, it must be turned in through the assignment tool on Canvas.