Economics of Personal Finance – Eco 233-01E
Spring 2013

Professor: Ajamu Loving
Office: BA 102
Class Time: M W 2-3:15
Place: BA 244
Office Hours: M W 10-12:30
Phone: 903.886.5674
E-mail: ajamu.loving@tamuc.edu

REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS:


Financial Calculator: TI BA-II or comparable (not alpha programmable). I will only be teaching from the BA-II. For free guidebook see:

Scantron Sheets. You will need the small green ones (or brown) for every class period as quizzes can occur on any day and will require a scantron. Get lots of these.

Supplemental texts may be used during the lectures. To be able to pass the quizzes and exams I highly suggest regular class attendance and adequate notes.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course is designed to help students become prepared for a financially challenging world and to introduce the concepts and methods of personal financial planning. The financial planning process, the time value of money, taxation, credit, housing, insurance, employee benefits, family economics and building a personal financial plan will be explored. The course is designed to integrate subject matter into a comprehensive format enabling students to understand and demonstrate the ability to develop a personal financial plan and to increase financial literacy.

Special topics include the students understanding their credit report, debt repayment plans, monitoring/understanding spending habits, identifying retirement needs and understanding the need for insurance and estate planning.

NO PRIOR UNDERSTANDING OF FINANCE OR FINANCIAL PLANNING IS REQUIRED. THIS COURSE IS DESIGNED TO START FROM THE GROUND UP.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, students should be familiar with the following:

1. Understand holistic financial planning
2. The concept of financial literacy
3. The concept of retirement and retirement needs calculation
4. Concepts of budgeting and income planning
5. Understanding stocks, bonds, and mutual funds
6. Appropriate usage of debt
7. Concept of employee benefits
8. Basics of time value of money
9. Concept of insurance and annuities
10. Understanding the current economic environment and how it affects jobs, income, and retirement
COURSE OBJECTIVES
The course objectives as assessed by learning outcomes to measure student performance are as follows
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the concepts of financial planning and financial literacy.
2. Understand and apply financial planning techniques.
3. Demonstrate an understanding and show ability to measure personal financial decisions in a risk/return environment.

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION:
Attendance is encouraged, but not required. Given the difficulty of this material, you will NOT pass this class without regular reading (prior to class), class attendance, and participation.

TEACHING PROCEDURES:
The class will be conducted in a lecture/discussion format. Be prepared to discuss and ask questions about the material assigned for each class period. This will require that you read the material prior to the class period during which it will be discussed. Although many of the issues covered in the readings will be discussed in class, all the areas covered in the readings will not be part of class discussion. You are encouraged to participate in class. Participation is based on volunteering for class activities and exhibiting a positive attitude, demonstrated by attentive, courteous, and respectful behavior at all times. The nature of this course encourages an interactive forum, and everyone has something valuable to contribute. Disruptive or rude behavior will not be tolerated.

EXAMS:
There will be ONE midterm exam and a comprehensive final. You will be responsible for information from class discussion, required readings, and any guest speakers. There will be no “cheat sheets” allowed during the exams unless otherwise noted by the instructor. No makeup exams will be given unless for a university allowed excused absence. For an excused absence, the make-up exam will be administered prior to the scheduled exam. If you need to miss an exam for an excused absence let me know in advance so we can make arrangements. Anyone missing an exam (unexcused) will fail the course.

ASSIGNMENTS/QUIZZES:
You will receive quizzes/assignments during the semester. The number of quizzes/assignments is not set so your total point value will be an average of all assignments and quizzes. These assignments and quizzes will include text questions and/or supplemental activities. There will be no make ups for quizzes or assignments, however; I will drop the two lowest quiz/assignment grades. This will allow anyone to miss two quiz/assignment without penalty. If you don’t miss any quizzes/assignments I will drop your lowest score instead. This will reward those who complete all quizzes and assignments.

PARTICIPATION:
This course is based on the belief that mastery of the subject matter occurs through taking an active role in the learning process. Students are expected to attend class regularly and punctually. Lectures will be most beneficial when you complete assigned readings before topics are discussed in class. Assignments should be read prior to the appropriate class meeting.
**GRADING INFORMATION:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>POINT VALUE</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Throughout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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**TOTAL POINTS**

1000

Final Grades will be determined by the following schedule:

- **A:** 900 – 1000 points
- **B:** 800 – 899 points
- **C:** 700 – 799 points
- **D:** 600 – 699 points
- **F:** 0 – 599 points

**Grades of "I" (incomplete) will not be given to students who merely do not come to class, have failed to satisfactorily complete the course, or who beg, bother, or otherwise pester this instructor. Refer to the University’s policy regarding incompletes for further information.**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/PLAGERISM:**

All academic work must meet the standards contained in A Culture of Honesty: Policies and Procedures on Academic Honest. Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards and for observing the University Honor Code. Plagiarism occurs when a student submits work that is not his or her own. This includes copying from printed materials, websites, or from other people. All students are expected to turn in work that has been completed individually, unless otherwise informed by the instructor. Any assignment containing plagiarized material will automatically be graded as zero.

**ADA:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Halladay Student Services Building
Room 303 A/D
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

**CIVILITY IN THE CLASSROOM:**

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, students are prohibited from using cellular phones or beepers, making offensive remarks, chatting, reading newspapers, sleeping, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in “minimally” a request to leave class.
POLICY ON LATE WORK:

Late work WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED without a university excused absence as defined by Texas A&M – Commerce Rules and Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01. Note: keep a copy of your work - this protects you in the event of questions about missing assignments.

Excused absences include and are limited to:

- Pre-authorized religious holidays
- Participation in a required/authorized university activity
- Voting on Election Day
- Obligation of student at legal proceedings in fulfilling responsibility as a citizen
- Documented death in a student's immediate family
- Verified illness – Resulting in Hospitalization or Long-Term Illness
COURSE: ____________________

INSTRUCTOR: ______________________

NAME:  __________________________________________

I have received, read and understand this syllabus as presented by the instructor and am clear as to the requirements and effort that will be required to succeed in this course.

___________________________________________________     __________________
Signature                                                                      Date