



**ECO 1307 – Economics of Personal Finance
FALL 2018**

Instructor: Dr. Jared Pickens, CFP®, AFC®

Classroom: N/A

Office Location: BA 205 and Online via RingCentral Meetings

Office Hours: by appointment

Phone: (972) 546-0059

Preferred Form of Communication: Please send emails through the MyLeo Online message system only. This will let me know which class you are in and will keep the class more organized. Always make sure the prefix of the course is listed example: ECO 1307 or ECO1307

Communication Response Time: Emails will be responded to within 48 hours Monday – Friday.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook/Materials Required

Personal Finance, 7th edition., by Keown (ISBN: 978-0133856439) (6th edition is fine if it saves money)

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 Projects include the students reviewing their credit report, creating a debt repayment plan, monitoring their spending habits, identifying their retirement needs and understanding the need for insurance and estate planning.

Student Learning Outcomes

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 current economic environment and how it affects jobs, income, and retirement

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Design of Course

The class will be conducted very similar to a traditional classroom setting. Each week will open in MyLeoOnline open by Monday ay 5PM. There will be a combination of recorded and live classes. There will be a live lecture each week. The attendance policy of the course is located under "Lecture Attendance" in this document.

Students will be assigned a homework assignment each week to help master the week's content. All homework and lectures are required to be completed by Sunday at 11:59 PM.

The professor will not repeat questions that can be found on the syllabus. Furthermore, the professor will not answer questions regarding the class or content that have been addressed in lectures and/or e-mails to the course.

Students are expected to be read the book prior to watching the online lectures.

GRADING

Absolutely no late work will be accepted. Students that miss an exam will receive a zero. It is possible that curves will be given on exams. It is possible that students will receive extra credit, but it is up to the professor.

Exams

There will be three exams including the final. The final is comprehensive and will cover all of the course material covered during the semester. Students are responsible for information from live/recorded lectures, required readings, and any guest speakers. **There are no makeup exams. The first two exams will open on Thursdays by 5:00 PM. The exams will be due by Sunday at 11:59 pm. The final exam will coincide with the university exam schedule. Please adjust your schedule accordingly.**

Homework

In order to successfully master the student learning objectives in this course, students will be required to complete homework assignments throughout the semester. This homework is worked on in class on Fridays and will be due on the Monday following before class. The homework isn't busy work, but rather an opportunity to practice what the student has learned. The homework represents 10% of the overall course grade. The homework is always required to be uploaded to the dropbox in MyLeo Online.

Lecture Attendance

This is an online course and is designed to be very accommodating to individuals with busy schedules. However; the lectures are very important in meeting the course learning objectives. The professor takes substantial extra time to provide a learning environment that is similar to a traditional classroom.

It is understandable that many students will not be able to attend all of the live lectures; however, **students are required to meet at least ONE of the 3 options listed below to receive attendance credit.** Attendance credit is 10% of a student's final letter grade and is "all or nothing". **No partial points will be given.** Recorded lectures must be watched by Sunday at 11:59 of the week assigned. Students may qualify for attendance credit in one of the following THREE ways:

Option 1 – Attend 8 live lectures and watch 2 recorded lectures (2% bonus on average provided).

Option 2 – Attend 6 live lectures and watch 4 recorded lectures (1% bonus on average provided).

Option 3 – Attend 3 live lectures and watch at least 7 recorded lectures (No bonus points on average provided).

NOTE: Students don't have to select their option at any time during the semester. Each student's attendance will be assessed at the end of the semester; the professor will identify which option met the requirement.

Live lecture dates/times can be found in MyLeoOnline. The days times will rotate in order to give all students the best opportunity to meet their selected option.

NOTE: Attendance for the live lecture requires participating in the lecture by either answering questions, responding to being called upon, asking questions. Students must be present for at least 75% of the live lecture to earn attendance.

This policy will be strictly enforced**Final Grades**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

Exam 1	20%	A = 90%-100%
Exam 2	20%	B = 80%-89%
Exam 3	30%	C = 70%-79%
HW	20%	D = 60%-69%
<u>Attendance</u>	<u>10%</u>	F = 59% or Below
Total	100%	

IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION

FALL 2018 IMPORTANT DATES	
FINAL DROP DATE	See Advisor
THANKSGIVING BREAK	Nov 22 nd – Nov 23 rd
LAST DAY OF CLASS	December 9 th
FINAL EXAM WEEK	Dec 10 th – Dec 14 th
FINAL GRADES DUE (by professor)	Dec 17 th by 5:00 PM

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Dates	Chapter(s)	Due	Talking Points
1	08/27 – 09/02		Academic Honesty	Psychology and Money
2	09/03 – 09/09	1 & 2	HW 1	The Financial Planning Process / Financial Health
3	09/10 – 09/16	3 & 5	HW 2	Time Value of Money / Cash Management
4	09/17 – 09/23	6 & 7	HW 3	Credit / Credit Cards / Loans / Debt
5	09/24 – 09/30	6 & 7	Exam 1	Credit / Credit Cards / Loans / Debt Chapters: 1-7
6	10/01 – 10/07	8	HW 4	Major Purchase Decisions
7	10/08 – 10/14	8	HW 5	Major Purchase Decisions
8	10/15 – 10/21	9	HW 6	Life Insurance / Disability Insurance / Health Insurance
9	10/22 – 10/28	10	HW 7	Auto Insurance / HO Insurance / Renters Insurance
10	10/29 – 11/04		Exam 2	Chapters: 8 - 10
11	11/05 – 11/11	4	HW 8	Tax Planning
12	11/12– 11/18	11/12/13		Investment Basics/ Investing in Stocks and Bonds
13	11/19 – 11/25	14	HW 9	Mutual Funds/ Thanksgiving
14	11/26 – 12/02	15		Retirement Planning
15	12/03 – 12/09	16	HW 10	Estate Planning
Final	12/10 – 12/14	ALL	Final Exam	Note: Comprehensive (all chapters)

NOTE: This schedule is merely a guide. The professor may adjust schedule as needed.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

The Department of Economics and Finance is committed to maintaining the integrity and respectability of degrees conferred and course credit earned through our department. Academic dishonesty restricts the understanding of subject material by the perpetrator, distracts and discourages other class members, and reduces the value of the economic signal of degrees conferred through Texas A&M University - Commerce. Whether courses are online, face-to-face, or hybrid combinations; the faculty, staff, and student members of the Department of Economics and Finance are committed to protecting the integrity of our courses, regardless of the delivery method.

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.

Please read the following items for more specific information regarding academic dishonesty.

Department of Economics and Finance Policies

http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/business/departments/economic_sfinance/academic_integrity_policy.aspx

TAMUC – Undergraduate Policies

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version (s)	Maintenance Browser Version (s)
Microsoft ® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft ® Internet	N/A	11

Browser	Supported Browser Version (s)	Maintenance Browser Version (s)
Explorer®		
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	<p>The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version.</p> <p>Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.</p>

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
<http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp>
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.
 Pop-ups are allowed.
 JavaScript is enabled.
 Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - [Adobe Flash Player](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) (version 17 or later)
<https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>

- [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
- [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/) <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support

Need Help?

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support



at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "[click here](#)" to submit an issue via email.

System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

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
Gee Library- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Statement on Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill – 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.