



Please read the 4 non-negotiable course policies before proceeding:

1. No late assignments will be accepted whatsoever except when a student has a university-related activity (example: athletics, band, choir, etc.). Please do not ask to make up assignments – the answer will ALWAYS BE NO when asking for an extension.
2. Students will be asked to leave the classroom for sleeping during class, using their cellphones, and for failure to take notes. A pen and paper are required every day.
3. Students are required to use their MyLeo email address when communicating with the professor.
4. Students that miss a lecture are required to get the missed content from a student or watch the lecture recording if available.

Syllabus/schedule subject to change

**ECO 1307 01W – The Economics of Personal Finance
SUMMER I 2024**

Instructor: Dr. Jared Pickens, CFP®

Classroom: Zoom

Lecture times: See Schedule for Zoom Lectures (lectures are recorded)

Office Location: BA 102 F and Online

Office Hours: by appointment

Phone: 972 439 5788 (call or text)

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 ECO 1307

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

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook/Materials Required

Pearson eText Personal Finance: Turning Money into Wealth -- Instant Access
ISBN 9780137672042

Students will also need access to Microsoft Word® and Microsoft Excel®

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. Recognize personal money management beliefs and attitudes, psychological factors related to personal money management, and behavioral economic applications and explain their importance in personal finance.
2. Construct SMART financial goals and identify opportunity costs and positive and negative financial behavior; analyze decision-driven outcomes related to financial goals.
3. Examine the significance of macroeconomic factors (workforce factors, interest rates, inflation), human capital, professional development, and networking and its important link to personal money management.
4. Develop and analyze personal financial statements, (budget, income statement, and balance sheet), create time-value of money calculators in Microsoft Excel™, and interpret personal financial ratios.
5. Examine the different types of loans available and recognize the importance of personal credit, the side-effects related to debt, and the importance of consumer protection laws.
6. Identify personal risk management and implement appropriate strategies to minimize risks including the use of insurance.

7. Recognize the foundation of the U.S. personal income tax formula, calculate tax liability or refund, and select the appropriate amount of money to withhold for tax purposes.
8. Examine risk and return pertaining to personal investments and differentiate investments options. Also, recognize the importance of diversified long-term investment strategies and identify mutual funds through analysis.
9. Estimate the amount needed to retire and how using retirement plans, employer matching, and compound interest work together in achieving financial independence.
10. Identify the important estate planning documents (wills, trusts, and powers of attorney) and choose the most appropriate document to use in specific situations.

COB STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will demonstrate proficiency in spoken communications by delivering clear and well-structured business presentations.
2. Students will demonstrate proficiency in written communications by creating clear and well-structured business documents.
3. Students will identify and evaluate ethical business issues.
4. Students will identify and evaluate global business challenges.
5. Students will be analytical problem solvers in business environments.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)	Objectives - After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:	Objectives will be measured as follows:
2,3,5	Explain how choices and trade improve welfare.	Homework Assignment 1 and 2 Exam 3
3,4,5	Be able to use the supply and demand model to describe individual decision makers, an industry, and the economy as a whole.	Homework Assignment 2 and 3 Exam 3
2, 3,4, 5	Be able to calculate features of the economy given a simplified dataset. Be able to discuss the limitations and benefits of using each construct to describe the economy.	Exam 3

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Design of Course Overview

The class will be conducted very similar to a traditional classroom setting and maintains flexibility for students who cannot attend in a physical setting. This is a summer course with different modules and due dates during the time semester. There will be a combination of pre-recorded and live instructional content. There will be ONE live lecture each module/unit. The lectures are recorded and can be viewed later. The attendance policy for the course is located under "Lecture Attendance" in this document. Students need to either attend the live lecture via Zoom or watch the lecture at a later time. **Students are not required to attend the live lectures, but students will need to watch the recordings for the lectures during the week conducted.**

Students should use the UNIT checklists found in D2L to identify what is due each week in terms of content and/or assignments. There will be a combination of pre-recorded and live instructional content throughout the semester. There will be homework assignments, interactive learning quizzes (ILQ), 3 discussion assignments, and 3 exams. There will be ONE live lecture each week that lasts approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes. The attendance policy of the course is located under "Lecture Attendance" in this document. Students need to either attend via the zoom lecture or watch the recording. Extra credit is provided for attending the majority of the live lectures.

The course is structured so that students can learn in various formats providing a richer learning experience. The professor will use various learning tools to help students master the course learning objectives. Students are expected to read the assigned chapters in the textbook, watching the eBook chapter videos, and attending/watching lectures and other instructional resources. **Students should commit between 6-9 hours of study time per week at a minimum (not including lectures).**

As mentioned previously, students will be assigned a weekly homework in D2L to help them master the learning objectives. All homework and lectures are required to be completed by the closing of each unit/module by 11:59 PM. Students will also be assigned 3 discussion assignments due at various times during the semester. Finally, there will be 3 exams in the course with the 3rd exam being a comprehensive final exam. See the course schedule for more details on due dates. The professor may or may not offer extra credit

assignments. **All exams will be completed online throughout the semester.**

The professor will not repeat questions that can be found within 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.

COURSEWORK/GRADING

It is important that students are organized to avoid missing assignments. The due dates for all assignments are located within the weekly checklists and the course calendar within D2L. No late work will be accepted unless there is a serious situation preventing the student from completing an assignment – and is always up to the professor’s discretion. Students that miss an exam will receive a zero. A student that misses more than one exam will need to drop the course. It is possible that students will have opportunities to earn extra credit, but no extra credit opportunity is guaranteed.

Exams

All exams will be administered online for this course. The instructor will notify students when the exam time window will open and the due date for the exam. The professor may provide an extension or open exams earlier. There will be three exams including the final. The final is comprehensive and will cover all course material covered during the semester. Students are responsible for information from live/recorded lectures, required readings, interactive lecture quizzes, and any guest speakers. **There are no makeup exams. The professor will allow the final exam score to replace ONE of a student’s previous exam score if the final exam score is higher.**

Homework Assignments

In order to provide students with practical real-life practice, students are assigned homework assignments during the various units/modules. Homework assignments are due at different dates and times and students should identify due dates within D2L. Homework assignments are completed in Microsoft Word® and Microsoft Excel®. All homework assignments are individual assignments and are required to be uploaded to a dedicated dropbox for each assignment.

Live Lecture Attendance (Zoom)

This is an online course that is designed to be very accommodating to individuals with busy schedules. The course has a weekly live lecture where students are encouraged to attend. However, attendance isn't required, but all students should watch the recorded lecture each week by Sunday at 11:59PM. However; the lectures are very important in meeting the course learning objectives. The professor takes substantial extra time to provide a quality learning environment built for discussion and dialogue.

It is understandable that many students will not be able to attend all of the live lectures; however, **students are encouraged to meet at least ONE of the 2 options listed below to receive extra credit.** Recorded lectures need to be watched by Sunday at 11:59 of the week assigned. Students may qualify for attendance credit in one of the following TWO ways:

Option 1 – Only miss 1-2 lectures and watch the missed lectures via recorded lectures (3% bonus on average provided).

Option 2 – Only miss 2-3 lectures and watch the missed lectures via recorded lectures (2% bonus on average provided).

NOTE: Students don't have to select their option at any time during the semester. Each student needs to keep track of their attendance record. The student will be required to report their attendance record at the end of the semester. **Missing more than 5 lectures will result in no bonus points.**

NOTE: Online 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.

LIVE TEACHING LINK / LECTURE RECORDINGS

Students will be provided this information before class begins.

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%
Homework	30%	D = 60%-69%
Total	100%	F = 59% or Below

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

UNIT	DATES	CHAPTER	LECTURES	ITEMS DUE
UNIT 1	Monday, 06/03 Tuesday, 06/04 Wednesday, 06/05	Introduction / Money Psychology	Monday @ 12PM Wednesday @ 6PM	Introduction Post Academic Honesty Money Scripts Post
	Thursday, 06/06 Friday, 06/07 Saturday, 06/08	CHAPTERS 1,2, and 5 Financial Planning, Statements, liquidity	Friday @ 12pm	HW 1 (Ch. 1,2, & 5)
UNIT 2	Sunday, 06/09 Monday, 06/10 Tuesday, 06/12 Wednesday, 06/12	CHAPTERS 6 and 7 Credit reports and scores, loans, debt	Monday @ 12PM Tuesday @ 6PM	HW 2
	Thursday, 06/13 Friday, 06/14 Saturday, 06/15 Sunday, 06/16	CHAPTERS 8 & 3 Purchase Decisions / Time Value of Money	Friday @ 12PM	HW 3 (Ch. 8 & 10) Exam 1 (1,2,5,6,7,8)
UNIT 3	Monday, 06/17 Tuesday, 06/18 Wednesday, 06/19	Chapter 4 Income Tax Planning	Monday @ 12PM	HW 4 (Ch. 4)
	Thursday, 06/20 Friday, 06/21 Saturday, 06/22	CHAPTERS 9 & 10 Introduction to Risk Management /Insurance	Friday @ 12PM	HW 5 (Ch. 9 & 10)
UNIT 4	Sunday, 06/23 Monday, 06/24 Tuesday, 06/25 Wednesday, 06/26	CHAPTERS 11, 12, & 13 Investment Basics/ Stocks / Bonds	Monday @ 12PM Tuesday @ 6PM	Exam 2 (8,3,4, 9, 10)
	Thursday, 06/27 Friday 06/28 Saturday, 06/29	CHAPTERS 14 Mutual Funds	NO LECTURE	HW 6 (Ch. 11 -14)
UNIT 5	Sunday, 06/30 Monday, 07/01 Tuesday, 07/02	CHAPTER 15 Retirement Planning	Tuesday @ 12PM	HW 7 (Ch. 15)
	Wednesday, 07/03	CHAPTERS 16 Estate Planning	Wednesday @ 6PM	HW 8 (Ch. 16) Exam 3 (All Chapters)

Note: This schedule is simply a guide and the professor has the right to change due dates if necessary. Students are responsible for updated due dates and can find updates via D2L announcements and e-mails.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The College of Business 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 College of Business are committed to protecting the integrity of our courses, regardless of the delivery method.

Students are required to electronically sign an Academic Honesty Policy for this course. This document can be found within D2L. **A student who breaches the policy will receive a zero for quizzes, homework, and/or discussions. A student that commits academic dishonesty with regards to an exam will receive an automatic "F" for the course. Students that copy and paste from outside websites or documents will receive up to an "F" in the course.**

NOTICE – THE USE OF CHATGPT OR OTHER AI TOOLS FOR ANY GRADEABLE ASSIGNMENTS WILL RESULT IN A ZERO FOR THE ASSIGNMENT. THE STUDENT WILL FAIL THE COURSE IF AI IS USED ON AN EXAM!

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Texas A&M University-Commerce has established standards of conduct to create and foster an environment that facilitates student learning and development. Students and University student groups are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect for the rights and property of others, and that is consistent with the educational goals and mission of the University. This Code of Student Conduct ("Code") focuses on personal responsibility and accountability for students' actions and the impact those actions may have on the greater community. The Student Code of Conduct can be found here:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusservices/studentRights/documents/Code%20of%20conduct%20in%20english.pdf>

Students are expected to be professional, courteous, and respectful at all times.

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/)

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

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 Explorer®	N/A	11
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	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. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
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.

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:

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.