

Foundations of Money Education – AGEC 235-501 Fall 2019

Professor: Nick Kilmer, MBA
Time & Location: Tuesday/Thursday, 3:55-5:10, HELD 109
Office Hours: By appointment (scheduled online at money.tamu.edu)
Will be held in the Money Education Center (Pavilion, 106).
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REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS:

Personal Finance: Turning Money into Wealth, Arthur J. Keown, 7th Edition, Prentice Hall, 2016 (ISBN- 0133973425). The course will be taught using the 7th edition, **but the 6th edition is cheaper and is also accepted for this course.**

This class will use iClickers (electronic remotes). Texas A&M's bookstore sells iClickers, but you may purchase yours from anywhere you see fit. After purchasing your iClicker, register it on the e-campus page for this course and **bring it to every class** (failure to do so could result in a loss of credit).

PREREQUISITES:

NONE. NO PRIOR UNDERSTANDING OF FINANCE OR FINANCIAL PLANNING IS REQUIRED. THIS COURSE IS DESIGNED TO START FROM THE GROUND UP.

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 literacy. The financial planning process, money management, the time value of money, taxation, banking, credit, student loans, car buying, home buying, investments and more 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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Critical Thinking: This course will help students to critically consider a wide array of financial concepts, challenges, decisions, and opportunities which impact many Americans' lives. Students will also examine the impact of various financial changes in the economy on their lives as individuals and consider actions to secure and maximize their personal financial wellbeing both now and in the future.

Communication: Through group discussions, think-pair-share exam reviews, private financial advising appointments, and a semester long binder project, students will learn to effectively express their opinions, concerns, and mastery of critical financial concepts both to the instructor and to their peers.

Empirical and Quantitative Skills: A critical component of this class is both understanding and analyzing data. Students will be able to interpret tables and graphs, and use various tools and methods, to better understand how financial behavior impacts individuals, their families, and the society at large. Students will learn to understand and use amortization schedules, mathematical formulas, and computer programs to manipulate and analyze a variety of scenarios related to debt, investments, inflation, and personal financial statements.

Social Responsibility: Students will learn how the actions of individuals, corporations, and governments financially impact the United States and its citizens, as well as cultures and nations across the world. Understanding these critical financial concepts can assist students in engaging effectively with regional, national, and global communities.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. Describe holistic financial planning and the concept of financial literacy
2. Understand how to calculate and increase personal wealth
3. Create a personal budget
4. Understand the time value of money
5. Comprehend basic federal income tax information and calculations
6. Explain the appropriate usages of debt and how to improve credit
7. Understand how to protect financial information from identity theft
8. Comprehend how to select, apply for, manage, and repay student loans
9. Explain how to prepare for post-graduation success
10. Understand the car buying and home buying processes
11. Recognize the difference between different types of investments
12. Understand and evaluate different retirement planning opportunities

ATTENDANCE:

Mastery of the subject matter for this course occurs through taking an active role in the learning process and therefore students are expected to attend class. **Students with 1 or fewer unexcused absences, who arrive on time to class, and are engaged and respectful in class, will not be required to complete the Final Exam** (they may still choose to do so though). Attendance will typically be taken using iClickers, so make certain to bring yours to every class. If you forget your iClicker, then **you must sign in on the paper sign-in form**, otherwise you will be counted absent.

ELECTRONICS IN THE CLASSROOM:

All students must have the opportunity to learn during class without distraction. Therefore, computers and phones may not be used in the classroom without the instructor's expressed permission. Should you have a sincere need to utilize an electronic device during class, please ask for permission in advance.

M.E. BINDER:

Students will build a Foundations of M.E. Binder over the course of the semester. The purpose of this binder is to enable students to learn about their own finances so that they don't simply learn general personal finance theory during the semester. Purchase a 3 ring binder that is 2 inches in width, put your name ***on the side*** of the binder, and insert 8 dividers labeled *Financial Planning/ TVM, Taxes/Banking/Culture, Consumerism/Credit, Paying College/ Graduation, Car Buying, Love/Home Buying, Investments/Retirement, and Advising Others*. As our class progresses through each topic, you will be asked to complete worksheets, online courses, reflection papers, and more, and store those documents in the related section of your binder. Prior to the binder check deadline (see the Course Outline in this syllabus), you will be provided a checklist telling you which documents need to be stored in each section of your binder. **Make certain that these documents are hole-punched and stored in the appropriate section before submitting your binder**. Drop off your binder at the front desk of the Money Education Center in the Pavilion (no appointment required) by 5pm on the deadline date. You will be notified via e-campus when your binder is ready to be picked up.

EXAMS:

There will be THREE regular exams and a final. You will be responsible for information from class discussions, required readings, and the information included in your ME Binder. **No makeup exams will be given** except for a University allowed excused absence.

KNOWLEDGE CHECKS:

Students are expected to participate and respond to questions in class. Some class questions will be used to check students' knowledge and comprehension of course concepts. These questions will be graded based upon participation, as well as accuracy. Students who are unable to respond to such questions due to arriving late to class, being absent, or failing to bring their iClicker remotes to class will lose credit. Exceptions will only be allowed with a University excused absence.

POLICY ON LATE WORK:

Late work WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED without a university excused absence. For more information go to: <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>). Note: keep a copy of your work - this protects you in the event of questions about missing assignments.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/PLAGERISM:

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal or tolerate those who do.” (For more information go to: <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>). 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.

GRADING INFORMATION:

	Final Exam <u>NOT Required</u>	Final Exam <u>Required</u>
Knowledge Checks	30%	30%
Exam I	15%	10%
Exam II	15%	10%
Exam III	15%	10%
ME Binder	25%	25%
Final Exam		15%
Total	100%	100%
Extra Credit	5%	5%

ME Binder Checks: After each part (Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3), you will be provided with a ME Binder Checklist for that specific part. This will give you the chance to review your work and/or schedule an **AGEC 235 Binder Check** appointment (no walk-ins) to have your work reviewed and graded for that part. 1% will be added to your final grade for each part (Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3) for which you attend such an appointment. Up to 3% extra credit allowed overall.

Junior Achievement: Volunteer for Junior Achievement and provide 5 lessons related to money, community, and work to an elementary school class in the local area. Training and teaching curriculum will be provided. 5% extra credit will be added to your final grade at the end of the semester.

See the Course Schedule to find out when the above extra credit opportunities will be available.

Final Grades will be determined by the following schedule:

A: 90% – 100% B: 80% – 89% C: 70% – 79% D: 60% – 69% F: 0% – 59%

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.

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 believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus or call 979-845-1637. For additional information, visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

CIVILITY IN THE CLASSROOM:

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Inappropriate behavior shall result in “minimally” a request to leave the classroom.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Date	Part	Chapter	Topic(s)	Extra Credit Opportunities	
27-Aug	Part 1		Syllabus & Introductions	Junior Achievement (8/27-12/3)	
29-Aug		Chapters 1, 2, & 3	Financial Planning & Time Value of Money		
3-Sep					
5-Sep					
10-Sep		Chapters 4 & 5	Taxes, Banking, & Culture		
12-Sep					
17-Sep					
19-Sep			Exam 1 Review		
24-Sep			Exam 1		
26-Sep	Part 2	Chapter 6	Consumerism & Credit		ME Binder Check for Part 1 (9/18-10/15)
1-Oct		Chapter 7	Paying for College & Preparing for Graduation		
3-Oct					
8-Oct					
10-Oct		Chapter 8	Car Buying		
15-Oct			Exam 2 Review		
17-Oct			Exam 2		
22-Oct	Part 3	Chapter 8	Love & Money, & Home Buying		ME Binder Check for Part 2 (10/16-11/19)
24-Oct					
29-Oct					
31-Oct		Chapters 11 & 15	Investments & Retirement Planning		
5-Nov					
7-Nov					
12-Nov		Special Topic	Advising Others		
14-Nov			Exam 3 Review		
19-Nov		Exam 3			
21-Nov		Exam 3	ME Binder Check for Part 3 (11/20-12/2)		
26-Nov		Exam 3			
28-Nov	No Class	Thanksgiving			
3-Dec	No Class	ME Binders Due by 5pm			
10-Dec	Final		Final Exam (1-3pm)		

**NOTE: THE COURSE SYLLABUS IS A GENERAL PLAN FOR THE COURSE.
DEVIATIONS ANNOUNCED TO THE CLASS BY THE INSTRUCTOR MAY BE NECESSARY.**