

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

FRESHMAN SEMINAR:
FAMILY FINANCIAL ISSUES AND PATHWAYS TO LEADERSHIP

CLASS TIME: THURSDAY 8:00 AM – 9:15 AM ☺
CLASS LOCATION: 112 DAWSON HALL

PROFESSOR:

Dr. Diann Moorman
Office: 209 Dawson Hall

Phone: 706.542.5661

E-mail: [Use my WebCT email address only](#)

Welcome to FRESHMAN SEMINAR 1020: FAMILY FINANCIAL ISSUES AND PATHWAYS TO LEADERSHIP. During the fall of 2008, the Presidential election will focus the nation on current economic issues and the leadership needed to address present and future challenges. For individuals, the economic dimensions often begin with personal finance, impacted by the developments at national and global levels. Learning community members will study a range of contemporary issues affecting their personal financial futures and consider their potential for leadership for positive change.

“All genuine learning is active, not passive. It involves the use of the mind, not just the memory. It is a process of discovery, in which the student is the main agent, not the teacher.”

(Mortimer J. Adler)

Therefore, our challenge this semester is then, one of discovery—and you, my dear students will be the Lewis and Clark of this endeavor. This course is about finances, consumer economics and leadership; as such, we interact with finances, consumer economics and leaders or followers in our real lives on a daily basis. We make financial and economic decisions every day, therefore; we are learning and discovering because we apply our knowledge every day. We make decisions on being a leader or a follower every day.

This course uses a problem-based learning format. Students in groups work through real world problems with the goal of learning how to find and evaluate financial and economic information, apply and synthesize financial and economic concepts and principles, and communicate ideas and information about finances and economics to others. Discussions led by the course instructor, plus supplementary lectures, help to give the problems a context and conceptual framework.

The basic ground rule for this course is RESPECT. As university students we should expect diversity in backgrounds, beliefs, and values related to course topics. It is asked that you always maintain respect for your instructor, your fellow students, guest lecturers, and opinions different from your own.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The student will gain understanding of the history, concepts, and theories and research on personal finances and consumer economics. The course instructor assumes little or no prior knowledge of the subject matter and focuses on helping the student understand the process of personal finance and consumer economics and the theories that drive them. The course will increase students' knowledge on several levels:

- Factual: students will be challenged to comprehend and remember the basic financial and economic elements and terminology consumers must know to be effective leaders in solving problems related to consumer economics and personal finances;
- Conceptual: students will strive to understand the interrelationships that exist among these basic elements, and to discover what factors enable these elements to function successfully together;
- Procedural: students will be asked to apply, analyze and evaluate financial and consumer economic equations and formulas;
- Meta-cognitive: students will create from this knowledge, an awareness of their own financial standing, leadership skills and their place in consumer economics.

TEXTBOOK (REQUIRED):

No textbook required! Your readings will be in-class, through your composition textbook, or on WEBCT.

SKILLS (REQUIRED):

This course will use WebCT for communication and course information. Use of WebCT will be discussed in class. If you do not currently have a WebCT account you will need to acquire one.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

**Instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus as necessary*

1. **Assignments: Two course related assignments will be assigned during the semester. Topics will pertain to a current issue being discussed during the seminar. Specific directions will be made available during the semester.**
2. **Project/presentation: A final project/presentation will conclude the semester. Specific directions will be made available at the appropriate time.**

COURSE POLICIES:

1. Any papers you turn in for class or during class **must have your CLASS IDENTIFICATION NUMBER on it and your name on it. Note: your class id number is not your UGA ID NUMBER. Your class id number will be assigned by me to you on your WEBCT home page. IF YOU TURN IN A PAPER WITHOUT YOUR CLASS IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON IT—YOU WILL NOT BE AWARDED POINTS.**
2. **CLASS ATTENDANCE IS EXPECTED.** Because this is a discussion course where you, the student, are the main agent, it is imperative that you attend every class. The material and discussions will be presented **solely** during class time; therefore, it is to your benefit to be present for each and every class. In-class participation opportunities may be made available throughout the semester—if you are not in class—you will not receive these opportunities.

3. Students are expected to have read the reading material assigned when applicable—prior to class time. Power point notes will be used to supplement your readings; they are by no means the only course content for which you are responsible.
4. Students are required to respect the learning rights of others in the class by cooperating in group discussions and activities, and exhibiting respectful classroom etiquette:
 - a. Students coming late, leaving early, talking during class, letting cell phones ring or texting during class disturb the class. Therefore,
 - i. Please arrive to class on time. Late comers disrupt the class. If tardiness becomes a problem—your continued enrollment in this seminar may be revoked.
 - ii. Please do not have side conversations during class unless you are asked to do so as part of the class work. I can hear your whispers—your neighbors can hear your whispers and it's very distracting. Save your conversations until after class.
 - iii. Please turn your cell phone to the OFF position. Not just vibrate but totally OFF. Again—an unnecessary class disturbance for which you are responsible in eliminating.
 - b. Your laptop will be welcome in class as long as it is being used to follow along with lectures. If you are using it to Facebook or surf, you and your laptop will be removed from class. Multitask on your own time—not class time.
 - c. Class begins at 8:00 AM and ends at 9:15 AM. Please do not begin the hoof and bag shuffle until then. I can tell time and will release you when class is over.
 - d. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated and will be handled according to university judicial procedure.
 - i. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:
 1. Signing in someone else's name if/when attendance is taken
 2. Citing someone else's work as your own—including the work of a fellow student. Working “together” does not mean you turn in the exact same answer and claim you both reached the exact same conclusion on a problem.
 3. Cheating on projects—through various means.
 4. Cheating on assignments—through various means.
5. Last minute computer problems are only a problem if you are waiting until the last minute to complete your assignment. If you experience a last minute computer problem, realize that it is solely YOUR problem, not my problem. Your assignment is due when it is due. Late is late—no matter what the problem.
6. Check this course's WebCT page daily. All class announcements and information will be delivered to you through WebCT, not through personal email. When applicable, lesson notes will be posted on the home page. Chat rooms for group work are available through the home page.
7. If you need to contact me, use my WebCT address only. I teach 5 classes—I guarantee and email to my UGA account will get lost.
8. You will have access to your individual scores through WebCT. If there is a discrepancy in your recorded score, bring this to my attention for verification. This includes any and all participation/professionalism/attendance points. If we complete an in-class project and you do not see a score for your project within a week—then **YOU need to contact me and let me know your points have not been posted.** After ONE week the papers will go to the shredder and you will have no proof that you were indeed in class that day.

9. Please alert the instructor during the first two weeks if you have special documented instructional needs that need accommodated.

10. "Late adds for this course will not be approved except under exceptional circumstances".

COURSE OUTLINE:

FRESHMAN SEMINAR 1020: FAMILY FINANCIAL ISSUES AND PATHWAYS TO LEADERSHIP.

Week 1: August 21

Thursday 21	INTRODUCTION: WELCOME TO CLASS AND UGA
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Week 2: August 28

Thursday 28	TOPIC 1: THE FAMILY
	ISSUE 1: Family Defined Reading: Attitudes about childlessness in the United States: Correlates of positive, neutral, and negative responses. <i>Journal of Family Issues</i> , 28(8), 1054-1082. (AVAILABLE ON WEBCT)

Week 3: September 4

Thursday 4	TOPIC 1: THE FAMILY
	ISSUE 2: The Crayola Family (Guest lecture) Reading: "Desiree's Baby" by Chopin available in <i>Literature Portfolio</i> (p. 161)

Week 4: September 11

Thursday 11	TOPIC 1: THE FAMILY
	ISSUE 3: Managing Family Resources

Week 5: September 18

Thursday 18	TOPIC 2: FINANCES
	ISSUES 4: Managing Money as a Family Resource

Week 6: September 25

Thursday 25	TOPIC 2: FINANCES
	ISSUE 5: The Marketplace, Businesses and You Reading: "Goblin Market" by Rosetti in <i>Literature Portfolio</i> (p.496) Introduced in Composition on 9/22-24

Week 7: October 2

Thursday 2	TOPIC 2: FINANCES
	ISSUE 6: Who Wants to be a Millionaire? Guest Lecture: Dr. Joseph Goetz

Week 8: October 9

Thursday 9	TOPIC 3: THE ECONOMY
	ISSUE 7: Economics and Freedom Reading: "The Story of an Hour" by Chopin in <i>Literature Portfolio</i> (p. 159) Introduced in Composition on 10/03

Week 9: October 16

Thursday 16	TOPIC 3: THE ECONOMY
	ISSUE 8: Business Ethics Reading: "The Cask of Amontillado" by Poe in <i>Literature Portfolio</i> (p. 60) Introduced in Composition on 10/03

Week 10: October 23

Thursday 23	TOPIC 3: THE ECONOMY
	ISSUE 9: Businesses in today's Economy

Week 11: October 30

Thursday 30	FALL BREAK
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Week 12: November 6

Thursday 6	TOPIC 4: LEADERSHIP
	ISSUE 10: What makes a leader?

Week 13: November 13

Thursday 13	TOPIC 4: LEADERSHIP
	ISSUE 11: Are you smarter than our current leaders?

Week 14: November 20

Thursday 20	FINAL PRESENTATIONS/PROJECTS
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Week 15: November

Thursday 27	THANKSGIVING BREAK
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Week 16: December 4

Thursday 4	FINAL PRESENTATIONS/PROJECTS
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Week 17: December 11

Monday 11	FINAL PRESENTATIONS/PROJECTS 8:00 – 11:00
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COURSE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT:

PAPER #1	100 POINTS
PAPER #2	100 POINTS
FINAL PROJECT/PRESENTATION	200 POINTS
TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE	400 POINTS

Final Grades will be based on the following scale:

SATISFACTORY	70.0 – 100.0%	UNSATISFACTORY	<70.0%
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