

HACE 3000
Family Resource Management

Fall 2009
Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:15
Dawson Hall 101

Professor: Sharon Y. Nickols
Office: 203 Housing and Demographics
Research Center (House B)

E-mail: snickols@fcs.uga.edu
Telephone: 706-542-4849
Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-3:30 p.m.
or by appointment

Graduate Assistant:
Doneshia Starling
Office: 105 Consumer
Research Center (House C)
E-mail: 21dostar@uga.edu
Telephone: 706-542-9013
Office Hours: Wed & Fri
11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Course Description:

This course covers management of resources with a focus on personal and family issues and decisions. Basic principles of management, human ecosystem theory, and their application in the changing context of family, community, and global events are examined. The course fosters critical thinking and writing skills.

Course Objectives:

1. Each student will be able to explain concepts from family resource management and to use resource management concepts to analyze and carry out assignments applicable to real life situations. This objective is consistent with the College of Family and Consumer Sciences motto: "Knowledge for Real Life."
2. Students will increase their ability to analyze the elements of personal and family decisions and to apply this knowledge in understanding resource management issues and consumer decisions at local, national, and global levels.
3. Enhancing students' ability to communicate about family resource management through class activities and written assignments is central to this course.
4. The contractual grading system is designed to promote realistic assessment of resources, goal-setting, and the use of the managerial process throughout the semester.

Course Policies and Procedures:

1. Contractual Grading System. The class is organized on a contractual grading system. The “contracts” are based on the scope of assignments included in different letter grades. Students will select the “package” that includes the extent of assignments and the letter grade to which they aspire. Points will be assigned based on the quality of work represented in the completion of the various assignments. The contract implies that the effort invested in the assignments and activities will be of sufficient critical thinking, time management, writing, and attention to the details of the assignment as to exhibit high standards indicative of college-level work.

Submitting a specific contract does not automatically assign that grade. The grade is earned by accumulating points toward fulfillment of that specific contract level.

Failure to complete the assignments within a specific contract level at a standard of quality acceptable for college-level work will result in a lower grade level or “F” depending on the scope of the deficiency. Points accumulated above the contracted grade must exceed 5% of the total points for that level contract in order to qualify for a grade in the next higher contract level.

Initial contracts are due in class August 25, 2009. Contracts may be renegotiated on October 22, 2009 and November 17, 2009.

Assignments/Activities for Contract Levels (Maximum Points)

“C Contracts” (Total Pts. = 575)	“B Contracts” (Total Pts. = 700)	“A Contracts” (Total Pts. = 850)
In-class activities # 10 @ 20 points each Total = 200	In-class activities # 10 @ 20 points each Total = 200	In-class activities # 10 @ 20 points each Total = 200
Resource Inventory * 75 points	Resource Inventory* 75 points	Resource Inventory* 75 points
Implementation of a personal plan 75 points	Implementation of a personal plan 75 points	Implementation of a personal plan 75 points
Participation in Poverty Simulation 75 points	Participation in Poverty Simulation 75 points	Participation in Poverty Simulation 75 points
Reflection Paper on Poverty Simulation 50 points	Reflection Paper on Poverty Simulation 50 points	Reflection Paper on Poverty Simulation 50 points

Analysis of Global
Resource Issue
(Team assignment)
125 points

Analysis of Global
Resource Issue
(Team assignment)
125 points

Application of Human
Ecosystem Model to
Creative Literature
150 points

Final Exam
100 points

Final Exam
100 points

Final Exam
100 points

Grading Scale for Contract Levels

“C Contracts”
(Total Pts.= 575)

“B Contracts”
(Total Pts.= 700)

“A Contracts”
(Total Pts.= 850)

540-575 = C+
500-539 = C
465-499 = C-

665-700 = B+
631-664 = B
600-630 = B-

800-850 = A
750-799 = A-

Below 465 = F

There are no “D” options in this course. Failure to complete assignments/activities at the minimum C- level will result in a grade of F. *Note: C- does not meet the requirement to earn a C in a course when a minimum grade of C is a requirement of the major.*

Some in-class activities may be returned for additional work and may be revised and resubmitted. This will be announced in class as the opportunity occurs.

* The resource inventory may be revised and resubmitted for additional points (up to the maximum). There are two objectives for revisions: 1) Improving the content of the assignment; 2) Improving the assignment to better demonstrate the understanding of the subject and insights gained. **A revised project will not be accepted after the date specified when the papers are returned to students. The due date for the revision will be announced in class.**

2. Late Policy. Late assignments will be assessed a 10% deduction of the points for the assignment. (For example, the Resource Inventory has a total of 75 points. A late Resource Inventory will get a 7 point deduction, which cannot be recovered if it is revised.) When the assignment indicates “turn in at the beginning of class” the late penalty applies on that day from 11:00 a.m.. If you will not be in class on the day an assignment is due, send it as a Word attachment to Dr. Nickols’ e-mail address:

snickols@fcs.uga.edu (The time sent will be noted on the paper and should be before 11:00 a.m.) **In class activities cannot be completed at a later date.**

3. Attendance and In-class Activities. Attendance is expected on a regular basis. In-class activities will consist of quizzes over the assigned reading, work sheets, written critique or reflection, and small-group discussion. Twelve of these activities will occur randomly throughout the semester. Ten of the activities will count toward the contract.

This system accommodates absence in case of illness and emergencies (or the student's choice to be miss class). In effect, students have two opportunities to be absent without losing points. As noted above, "In class activities cannot be completed at a later date. Exceptions **may** be made, but **only for extended absence due to medical emergencies and contagious illnesses. Documentation is required. Notify the professor by e-mail if an extended period of absence is anticipated.**

4. Emphasis on Analysis and Writing. This course is designed to teach theories and principles of management pertaining to individuals and families, and to use those theories and principles through application. The course will have several writing elements, included, but not limited to, short answer statement written in class, case study analysis, inventories, reflection papers, and critical analysis reports. Correct grammar, spelling, and references are expected. Given the variety of assignments, the course provides a low-risk opportunity to enhance writing skills. Also, students are encouraged to use the UGA Writing Labs to enhance writing skills.

5. Change in Regular Class Schedule. A Poverty Simulation will take place on a time to be announced. **Participation in this experience is required.** The event will require nearly three hours to complete and will be conducted in an evening session. A written reflection paper based on experiences in the Poverty Simulation will be due soon after the simulation. These assignments are linked. Credit will not be given for the Poverty Simulation without completion of the Reflection Paper, nor will credit be given for the Reflection Paper without attendance at the Poverty Simulation. Professor Nickols will provide a letter explaining the requirement for students who need to be excused from other functions or classes that conflict with this event. **Specific time and place to be announced.**

6. Students' Responsibilities.

- * Read the assigned material before coming to class. Participate in class.
- * Treat others with respect, including fellow classmates, guest speakers, the Professor, and TAs.
- * Contribute responsibly to team and/or group assignments.
- * Attend class regularly. In-class activities count toward each contract grade level.
- * Turn off cell phone, Blackberry, laptop, and other electronic devices during class. If you plan to take notes on a laptop during the lecture, inform Prof. Nickols by e-mail to snickols@fcs.uga.edu by the third class session.

- * Secure information, handouts, etc. that you missed due to an absence from class. These will be available from Prof. Nickols for two class sessions after the scheduled date.
- * Check Web-based system periodically for information about the class.
- * Questions about points assigned or grades should be addressed as they occur. Preferred time for these conversations are after class or during schedule office hours. Discussions about points assigned or grades generally will be approached as a learning opportunity; grades **rarely** will be changed by the professor or TA. Mistakes made by the professor or TA will be corrected promptly.

7. Academic Honesty. Students are expected to inform themselves of and follow the UGA Culture of Honesty principles and practices found on-line at <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi>. Students are expected to do their own assignments and to work independently. Academic honesty means performing all academic work without plagiarism, cheating, lying or receiving unauthorized assistance. Because so much of the course is based on personal application of concepts, it is of little value to a student to have someone else do the assignments.

In-class group activities require students to work together. The Global Resource Issue assignment is a team assignment (2 or 3 individuals working together). In these instances, cooperation and equitable participation are expected.

8. Professor's and TAs' Responsibilities:

- * Be prepared for class. Begin and end class sessions as scheduled.
- * Announce any changes in the schedule in advance.
- * Be fair and honest in evaluating students' work.
- * Adhere to policies and treat students with respect.
- * Be available during announced office hours.
- * Respond to e-mails and telephone calls within a reasonable time frame.

Note: Students should not expect immediate response to e-mails or telephone calls. Professor Nickols and TAs have many responsibilities that must be managed along with the delivery of this course. Contact Professor Nickols via her e-mail snickols@fcs.uga.edu, not through class web-site.

9. Exams and Quizzes. There are no lengthy exams in the traditional sense in this class. There will be some quizzes over the assigned readings. The final exam for the course will cover terminology and concepts and will include short essay answers. Final exam schedule will appear on the course schedule.

10. Textbook. Students are expected to read the assignments in the textbook and other assignments posted on WebCT.

Goldsmith, Elizabeth. (2005). *Resource Management for Individuals and Families, 3rd ed.* Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

Additional readings as assigned: journal articles and newspaper articles.

A Contract: Students selecting the “A” Contract will purchase the novel they select, or borrow it from a library or friend.

Note: The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the professor may be necessary.

University Policies:

- 1. Late Adds.** Late adds for this course will not be approved except in exceptional circumstances.
- 2. Grades and Course Withdrawal.** If you withdraw *before* the midpoint of the semester, and you are failing the course, you will receive a **WF** in the course. A **WF** counts in your grade point average and still stands when you retake the course. If you withdraw *after* the midpoint, you will receive a **WF** even if you are passing the course. Exceptions are made only upon documentation of a hardship from the Office of the Associate Dean for Student Support, Vice President for Student Affairs.
- 3. Emergency, Crisis, and Extreme Hardship.** Students experiencing emergencies and crises that create physical and/or psychological hardship should seek advice and support from the Senior Associate Dean for Student Support, Holmes/Hunter Academic Building, Alan L. Campbell, 706-542-3564.
- 4. Disability Services.** Students who need the support of the Disability Resource Center should contact Karen Kalivoda, Director, 706-542-8719. **Students registered with UGA Disability Services should identify themselves to the professor early in the semester.**
- 5. Use of 810 Number.** Students should not use their Social Security number on class assignments. If a number is used for identification, use the Student ID beginning with 810. Include 810 and only the next six numbers. For example, 810-xx-xxxx.