

FCS 3450-90: Family Economic Issues across the Lifespan Online (Fall 2019)

Department of Family and Consumer Studies
Credit Hours: 3. This course has a QI designation.

Professor: Jessie Fan, Ph. D.
242 Alfred Emery Building (AEB)
Office hour: Wednesdays 11:40am-1:00pm. Other times by appointment
Phone: 801-581-4170 (no voicemail. Please send an email if you need a call back)
Email: Use Canvas email. Please do NOT use my regular email.

Please note: * For content questions, please provide details such as the textbook page number, unit and slide numbers, or assignment and question numbers. I will try my best to get back to you within 24 hours.
* In the interest of not wasting your time and my time, please note that I will NOT respond to two types of emails: 1) emails sent to my regular email address, and 2) emails requesting makeup for assignments and discussions regardless of the reason. (Please see makeup policy later in the syllabus).

Course description:

In this course we will first examine economic principles related to family economic decision-making. Examples of the concepts are: inflation, interest rate, present value and future value. These concepts are then applied to common consumer and family decisions. Examples of applications include: housing decisions, financial investment and human capital investment. Related policy issues will also be covered.

Course Objectives:

Upon complete of this course the student should be able to:

1. Understand basic micro- and macro-economic principles related to family economic well-being.
2. Master basic techniques of economic analysis of family decision-making.
3. Apply these concepts and techniques to various family economic decisions.
4. Enhance analytical thinking relating to data analysis, interpretation, and the presentation of data in a written format.

Textbook (Strongly recommended):

Economics and Consumer Decisions, 3rd Edition (2013), by Michael L. Walden and Jessie X. Fan. Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company. ISBN 978-1-4652-2538-2.



The reason I strongly recommend the textbook without requiring it is because this textbook is expensive. I try to include a lot of the important information on the slides but obviously, I cannot include all of the textbook. I have reserved a copy of this book on closed-reserve at the Marriott Library for those who choose not to purchase it.

Evaluation Methods and Point Allocation:

13 weekly assignments	24% (lowest score dropped)
13 weekly group discussions (1 post + 2 responses)	12% (lowest score dropped)
Exam I (covers Unit01-Unit06)	32% (proctored by Uonline)
Exam II (covers Unit07-Unit12, not comprehensive)	32% (proctored by Uonline)

All **assignments and discussion posts** are due by **11:59pm on Saturday of each week**. Before the deadline, you can access an assignment multiple times but can only submit once by the deadline.

Both exams (Exam 1 and Exam 2) will be arranged through Uonline. Please register using the “schedule exams” link on the left side of the course Canvas homepage as soon as possible so you can have your choice of time and location.

You can take one letter-sized page of notes (double-sided, hand-written or typed) with you to the proctored **exams**. You should also take a non-financial calculator with you. Each exam will have about 60 multiple choice questions and will be on Canvas, protected by a password. Please present your U student ID when checking in at the Uonline testing site you have

chosen at registration. You will have 120 minutes to finish an exam.

Grading Scale:

		92.0% or higher	A	90.0%-91.9%	A-
88.0%-89.9%	B+	82.0%-87.9%	B	80.0%-81.9%	B-
78.0%-79.9%	C+	70.0%-77.9%	C	65.0%-69.9%	C-
63.0%-64.9%	D+	55.0%-62.9%	D	50.0%-54.9%	D-
Lower than 50.0%	F				

Course Outline (Any change of dates will be posted on the Canvas):

Week 1 (8/19-8/24)	Getting familiar with the course and background quiz
Week 2 (8/25-8/31)	Unit 1. Mircofoundations: Concepts for Making Consumer Decisions (Reading Textbook p. 1-22)
Week 3 (9/1-9/7)	Unit 2. Mircofoundations: Concepts for Making Consumer Decisions (Reading Textbook p. 25-41, 65-67)
Week 4 (9/8-9/14)	Unit 3. Mircofoundations: Concepts for Making Consumer Decisions (Reading Textbook p.42-50)
Week 5 (9/15-9/21)	Unit 4. Mircofoundations: Concepts for Making Consumer Decisions (Reading Textbook p. 50-65)
Week 6 (9/22-9/28)	Unit 5. Macrofoundations: Economic Events and Consumer Decisions (Reading Textbook p.82-98)
Week 7 (9/29-10/5)	Unit 6. Macrofoundations: Economic Events and Consumer Decisions (Reading Textbook p. 98-112)
Week 8 (10/6-10/13)	Fall break
Week 9 (10/14-10/19)	Exam 1. Please register with UOnline as early as possible!
Week 10 (10/20-10/26)	Unit 7. Housing (Reading Textbook p. 193-230)
Week 11 (10/27-11/2)	Unit 8. Housing (Reading Textbook p. 231-272)
Week 12 (11/3-11/9)	Unit 9. Human Capital Investment (Reading Textbook p. 22-25, 536-552, Additional Reading Online)
Week 13 (11/10-11/16)	Unit 10. Assets Protection (Reading Textbook p. 359-381, 442-489)
Week 14 (11/17-11/23)	Unit 11. Money Investment (Reading Textbook p. 503-552)
Week 15 (11/24-11/30)	Unit 12. Life Cycle Consumption, Credit Use, and Retirement Planning (Reading Textbook p. 283-296, 663-731)
Week 16 (12/1-12/7)	Exam 2. Please register with UOnline as early as possible!

Assignment Makeup Policy:

There will be NO makeup or reassigning of any assignments or discussion posts. I understand that occasional circumstance beyond your control happens, and as such, I will drop your lowest score in each category at the end of the semester to account for such a situation. If you know you are going to be busy in a future week, please work on the material ahead of schedule. **Please respect both your time and my time and do not send me makeup requests.**

Exam and Exam Makeup Policy:

All exams are proctored by UOnline. If you are out of state, please contact UOnline (instead of the instructor) to make proctor arrangement as soon as possible. You really do not want to miss a proctored exam. However, if you must, contact me as soon as possible and definitely BEFORE the relevant exam or no makeup will be allowed. All makeup exams will be given at the end of the semester during the period of Exam II. The makeup exam will be different from the original exam.

Extra Credit Policy:

If you do miss more assignments than you would like, or if you would like to simply earn some extra credit, you are encouraged to attend any of the relevant workshops offered by the University of Utah Personal Money Management Center (PMMC). To earn the extra credit, you need to write a one-page, single-spaced reflection paper about the event topic, and submit it via the "Extra Credit" link on Canvas within one week of the event. For up-to-date information about PMMC events, please go to PMMC website at <http://personal-money-management.utah.edu/>. If you cannot make it to these events, you can write a reflection paper on a relevant topic by reading an academic research paper in an academic journal (try search scholar.google.com). If you decide to go this route please send the full paper in PDF file to me via Canvas email for approval. The last day to submit an extra credit assignment is 12/7. Typically one extra credit point is given for each reflection paper. A maximum of two extra credit opportunities is allowed for each student.

Electronic or Equipment Failure:

It is your responsibility to maintain your computer and related equipment in order to participate in the online portion of the

course. Equipment failures will not be an acceptable excuse for late or absent assignments. You are responsible for making sure your assignments, including attachments, are received before the deadline. If you have technical difficulties, please contact campus helpdesk (801-581-4000 option 1, helpdesk@utah.edu) or Uonline helpdesk (801-581-6112, classhelp@utah.edu).

Student and Faculty Responsibilities:

All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom or online setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Discussion threads, e-mails, and chat rooms are all considered to be equivalent to classrooms, and student behavior within those environments shall conform to the Student Code. Students have specific rights as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, and I will do so, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from and class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee. For more information, please consult University of Utah's Policy 6-400 at <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>

Disagreement about Grades:

If you disagree with the grading of a particular assignment or exam, you need to send an e-mail to me explaining why you think you deserve more or less points. I will then regrade your assignment or exam. Be aware that your grade can be lower, higher, or unchanged as a result of the regrading.

Withdrawal Policy:

For information regarding withdrawal policy and related tuition and fees, please contact the Registrar's Office (801-581-5808). For more information, please consult University of Utah's Policy 6-100 at <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.php>

Incomplete:

An incomplete will only be granted if you can justify to the instructor that you cannot finish the course because of circumstances beyond your control, and that you have a passing grade at the time of the request, and if the majority of course work is already completed. For more information, please consult University of Utah's Policy 6-100 at <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.php>

The Americans with Disabilities Act. The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services. While CDS and the instructor will make sure your exam is set up for the allowed extended time, if you choose to take your exam at a regular Uonline site, it is your responsibility to make sure that you have enough time before the site closes.

Accommodations Policy:

Some of the readings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that may conflict with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking. If you have a concern, please discuss it with me at your earliest convenience. For more information, please consult University of Utah's Policy 6-100 at <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.php>

University Safety Statement. The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

Addressing Sexual Misconduct. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has

been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).