FCS 5510: INVESTMENT AND LIFE INSURANCE PLANNING
FOR FAMILIES (FALL 2013)
Department of Family and Consumer Studies
Prerequisite: FCS 3450 or FCS 3500 or permission from instructor
Credit Hours: 3

Meeting times and location: online

Professor: Jessie Fan, Ph.D.,
242 Alfred Emery Building
Office hour: Fridays 9:30am-11:30am. Other times by appointment
Phone: 801-581-4170
Email: use Canvas email (the best method to contact me)

Course description:
This course focuses on investment planning with a small section on life insurance planning at the end. The investment portion aims to provide the student with an understanding of the various types of securities traded in financial markets, investment theory and practice, portfolio construction and management, and investment strategies and tactics. The life insurance portion addresses issues of assessing life insurance needs, and different types of life insurance.

Course Objectives:
Upon complete of this course the student should:
1. Understand the importance of financial markets and instruments in the wealth creation process
2. Understand where the investment process fits into the achievement of investor’s financial goals
3. Evaluate different types of financial instruments
4. Evaluate the return and risk implications of different investing strategies and tactics
5. Evaluate different types of life insurance for various needs.

Textbook:

Evaluation Methods and Point Allocation:
13 weekly homework assignments 12%
14 weekly discussions 7%
12 weekly quizzes 11% (the lowest score will be dropped)
Exam I 35%
Exam II 35%

Grading Scale:
87.4%-85.0% B+ 77.5%-84.9% B 75.0%-77.4% B-
72.5%-74.9% C+ 65.0%-72.4% C 62.5%-64.9% C-
60.0%-62.4% D+ 52.5%-59.9% D 50.0%-52.4% D-
Lower than 50.0 % F
Course Outline (Any change of dates will be posted on Canvas)

Week 1 (8/26-8/31)  Get familiar with the course. Read online instructions. Review time value of money (Reading Textbook Chapter 3).
Week 2 (9/1-9/7)     Unit 1. Introduction, and Security Markets (Reading Textbook Chapters 1 and 2)
Week 3 (9/8-9/14)    Unit 2. Tax Environment and Risk Management (Reading Textbook Chapters 4 and 5)
Week 4 (9/15-9/21)   Unit 3. Investment Companies (Reading Textbook Chapters 6 and 7)
Week 6 (9/29-10/5)   Unit 5. Common Stock: Valuation of Common Stock and Aggregate Measures of Stock Markets (Reading Textbook Chapters 9 and 10)
Week 7 (10/6-10/12)  Unit 6. Common Stock: Macroeconomic Environments, Behavioral Finance and Technical Analysis (Reading Textbook Chapters 11 and 12)
Week 8 (10/13-10/19) Fall Break
Week 9 (10/20-10/26) Exam 1. Please register with UOnline!
Week 10 (10/27-11/2) Unit 7. Fixed-Income Securities: Bond Market and Valuation of Fixed-Income Securities (Reading Textbook Chapters 13 and 14)
Week 11 (11/3-11/9)  Unit 8. Government Securities (Reading Textbook Chapters 15)
Week 12 (11/10-11/16) Unit 9. Options (Reading Textbook Chapters 17)
Week 13 (11/17-11/23) Unit 10. Commodities and Financial Futures (Reading Textbook Chapter 19)
Week 14 (11/24-11/30) Unit 11. Portfolio Management (Reading Textbook Chapter 20)
Week 15 (12/1-12/7)  Unit 12. Life Insurance (Reading Posted Online)
Week 16 (12/8-12/14) Exam 2. Please register with UOnline!

ADA statement:
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 the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

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 the University of Utah’s Accommodations Policy, which appears at: www.admin.utah.edu/facdev/accommodations-policy.pdf.

Student and Faculty Responsibilities:
All students are expected to maintain professional behavior according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. 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 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.
Withdrawal Policy:
For information regarding withdrawal policy and related tuition and fees, please contact the Registrar’s Office (801-581-5808).

Makeup and Extra Credit Policy:
There will be no makeups or reassigning of any quizzes, homework, or discussion. I will drop your lowest quiz score at the end of the semester to account for an occasional circumstance beyond your control. All quizzes, assignments, and discussions can be submitted ahead of schedule so please plan ahead. Please respect both your time and my time and do not send me makeup requests.

If you do miss more quizzes and 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 events 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 piece about the event topic, and submit it to me via Canvas email within one week after the event. I will decide how many extra credit points to give to you. A tentative copy of this semester’s events is available at http://content.csbs.utah.edu/~fan/fcs3450/PMMC2013FallEvents.pdf. For up-to-date information about PMMC events, please go to PMMC website at http://personal-money-management.utah.edu/. A maximum of two extra credit opportunities is allowed for each student.

Both exams (Exam 1 and Exam 2) will be arranged through UOnline. Please register as soon as possible so you can have your choice of time and location. You really do NOT want to miss a proctored exam. However, if you must, contact me as soon as possible. All makeup exams will be given at the end of the semester, and they will likely be more difficult than the original.

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.

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 if the majority of course work is already completed.

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.

Classroom equivalency:
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.