



Your University of Choice

COURSE SYLLABUS

Term: Fall 2015

Course: Econ 160 A: Economic Theory and Personal Finance

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Instructor Information:

Instructor Name	Dr. Melvin Randolph
Office Number:	Student Success Center
Phone Number:	219 473-7770 ext 287
Email:	mrandolph@ccsj.edu
Hours Available:	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 1-3pm
Instructor Background: <i>Dr. Melvin Randolph is an Adjunct Professor at Argosy University Chicago Campus. He has earned a Doctorate in Business Administration from Argosy University. He has a Master's of Science degree in Integrated Marketing Communications from Roosevelt University, Chicago IL. He also maintains a marketing consultant company in Northwest Indiana.</i>	

Course Information:

Course Time:	Monday, Wednesday 10:15-11:45
Classroom:	TBA
Prerequisites:	None
Required Books and Materials:	Required Text: <i>Econ 160 Economic Theory and Personal Finance</i> McGraw Hill Online Custom Text, CCSJ 2014 Suggested Text: <i>Predictably Irrational</i> , Daniel Ariely, 2008 available at Amazon ~\$10.00
Learning Outcomes/ Competencies: Students in this course will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Understand major economic concepts affecting business, government and personal behaviors· Analyze government's role in the economic system· Understand the major concepts and impact of personal finance	

- Differentiate among various types of credit
- Be able to calculate interest rates and earning on credit cards, loans and various saving instruments
- Be able to read and understand stock quotes
- Understand impact of taxes on personal income
- Understand insurance and risk management

Course Description:

This course introduces us to some basic micro and macro-economic principles with a focus on the individual and how we make economic choices. As a multidimensional course, this class will explore both theoretical principles and strategies that support economic decision making as well as some interesting behavioral aspects that tend to draw us away from the rational decision making processes which most theories rely on. *Have you ever worked with a group of very intelligent people yet find that when they are put together to solve a problem they appear to act very unintelligently? This class will help explain this behavior and many other seemingly irrational behaviors that we as humans suffer from.+++**

Learning Strategies:

Class lecture, video presentation, case study, and group presentations.

Experiential Learning Opportunities:

Personal Finance Plan Presentation and Stock Market assignment provides students the opportunity to apply their knowledge of personal finance and economics and conceptual understanding to real-world financial problems or situations.

Assessments:

Major Assignments:

Final Project – For this project you will discuss the importance of a personal finance plan and how behavioral economics play a part in your personal life. This assignment will help you better understand how both behavioral economics and a personal finance plan can be beneficial.

Presentations — For this assignment students will be graded on how well they can present an organized personal finance plan to the class.

Class Participation

Grade	Criteria
0 (5)	Absent and No Participation
1 (10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Present, not disruptive. ■ Tries to respond when called on but does not offer much. ■ Demonstrates very infrequent involvement in discussion.
2 (15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Demonstrates adequate preparation: knows basic case or reading facts, but does not show evidence of trying to interpret or analyze them. ■ Offers straightforward information (e.g., straight from the case or reading), without elaboration or very infrequently (perhaps once a class). ■ Does not offer to contribute to discussion, but contributes to a moderate degree when called on.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstrates sporadic involvement. 	
3 (20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstrates good preparation: knows case or reading facts well, has thought through implications of them. ▪ Offers interpretations and analysis of case material (more than just facts) to class. ▪ Contributes well to discussion in an ongoing way: responds to other students' points, thinks through own points, questions others in a constructive way, offers and supports suggestions that may be counter to the majority opinion. ▪ Demonstrates consistent ongoing involvement. 	
4 (25)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstrates excellent preparation: has analyzed case exceptionally well, relating it to readings and other material (e.g., readings, course material, discussions, experiences, etc.). ▪ Offers analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of case material, e.g., puts together pieces of the discussion to develop new approaches that take the class further. ▪ Contributes in a very significant way to ongoing discussion: keeps analysis focused, responds very thoughtfully to other students' comments, contributes to the cooperative argument-building, suggests alternative ways of approaching material and helps class analyze which approaches are appropriate, etc. ▪ Demonstrates ongoing very active involvement. 	

<p>Signature Assignments</p>	<p>Evaluation Criteria</p> <p>Graded assignments are similarly weighted such that the likelihood of falling behind is limited and a very low score from one assignment will not jeopardize the student's ability to successfully pass this course.</p> <p>Weekly Assignments /Quizzes 460 points Exams 125 points Final Exam 250 points Final Project 140 points Participation (quizzes, discussions, self-assessments) 25 points</p> <p>Total Class Points 1000 points</p> <p>Grading Scale:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grade</th> <th>Points</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>1000-920</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A-</td> <td>910-900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B+</td> <td>890-880</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>870-820</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B-</td> <td>810-800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C+</td> <td>790-780</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>770-720</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C-</td> <td>710-700</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D+</td> <td>690-680</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>670-620</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D-</td> <td>610-600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F</td> <td>590 and below</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Grade	Points	A	1000-920	A-	910-900	B+	890-880	B	870-820	B-	810-800	C+	790-780	C	770-720	C-	710-700	D+	690-680	D	670-620	D-	610-600	F	590 and below	
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Course Schedule:		
Class Date		
Week 1: Aug 31- Sep 6	Session 1: <u>Course Description, Methodology, Syllabus & Evaluation Standards, Instructor & Student Introduction's</u> Session 2: <u>"Detailed Course Outline, Final Project Introduction, "Behavioral Economics" Assignment Paper and questions "Behavioral Economics" Connect Plus</u>	Aug 31 Sept 2
Week 2 Sep 7 – Sep 13	Session 1: Read Chapter <u>Chapter 1 : Behavioral Economics (Continued)</u> Session 2: Read Chapter <u>Chapter 2 : Rational Consumer Choice</u> Weekly Assignment Paper and Questions "Rational Consumer Choice"Connect Plus	Sep 7 No Class (Labor Day) Sep 9
Week 3 Sep 14 – Sep 20	Session 1: <u>Chapter 3 : Rational Consumer Choice (Continued)</u> Session 2: Read Chapter <u>Chapter 4: Consumer Purchasing Strategies and Legal Protection</u> Weekly Assignment Connect Plus Practice Questions and Quiz	Sep 14 Sep 16
Week 4 Sep 21 - 27	Session 1: Read Chapter <u>Chapter : Thinking Like an Economist</u> Weekly Assignment Paper and Questions "Thinking Like An Economist" Connect Plus Session 2: Read Chapter <u>Chapter 5: "Supply and Demand"</u> Weekly Assignment Paper and Questions "Supply and Demand" Connect Plus	Sep 21 Sep 23
Week 5 Sep 28 - Oct 4	Session 1: <u>Chapter 1-5: Departures (Cont.) and Exam Q&A</u>	Sep 28 Sep 30

	<p><u>Discuss Final Project and Rubric</u></p> <p>Session 2: <u>Exam 1: Chapters 1-5</u></p> <p>(Exams can be found on Blackboard).</p>	
<p>Week 6</p> <p>Oct 5 – Oct 11</p>	<p>Session 1: <u>Chapter 6: Personal Finance: Choosing a Source of Credit</u></p> <p>Session 2: <u>Chapter 6: Choosing a Source of Credit (Continued)</u></p> <p>Weekly Assignment Connect Plus 6 Practice Questions and Quiz</p>	<p>Oct 5 Oct 7</p>
<p>Week 7</p> <p>Oct 12 – Oct 18</p>	<p>Session 1: <u>Chapter 7: The Housing Decision</u></p> <p>Session 2: <u>Chapter 8: Property and Motor Vehicle Insurance</u></p> <p>Weekly Assignment Connect Plus 7,8 Practice Questions and Quiz</p>	<p>Oct 12 Oct 14</p>
<p>Week 8</p> <p>Oct 19 – Oct 25</p>	<p>Session 1: <u>Chapter 9: Life Insurance</u></p> <p>Session 2: <u>Exam 2: Chapters 6-9</u> (Exams can be found on Blackboard). Weekly Assignment Connect Plus 9,10 Practice Questions and Quiz</p>	<p>Oct 19 Oct 21</p>
<p>Week 9</p> <p>Oct 26 – Nov 1</p>	<p>Session 1: <u>Chapter 10: Investing Fundamentals</u> <u>Chapter 11: Investing in Stocks</u></p> <p>Session 2: <u>Chapter 12: Investing in Bonds</u></p> <p>Weekly Assignment Connect Plus 11,12 Practice Questions and Quiz</p>	<p>Oct 26 Oct 28</p>
<p>Week 10</p> <p>Nov 2 – Nov 8</p>	<p>Session 1: <u>Chapter 13: Investing in Mutual Funds</u></p> <p>Session 2: <u>Chapter 14: Investing in Real Estate and Other Investments</u></p> <p>Weekly Assignment Connect Plus 13,14 Practice Questions and Quiz</p>	<p>Nov 2 Nov 4</p>
<p>Week 13</p> <p>Nov 9 – Nov 15</p>	<p>Session 1: <u>Exam 3: Chapters 10-14</u></p>	<p>Nov 9 Nov 11</p>

	See BB for location, dates & times are the same as class times/dates. <u>(Exams can be found on Blackboard).</u> Session 2: <u>Chapter 15: Retirement Planning</u> Weekly Assignment Connect Plus 15 Practice Questions and Quiz	
Week 14 Nov 16 – Nov 22	Session 1: <u>Chapter 15: Retirement Planning (Continued)</u> Read carefully: Pages 236-253 Session 1:	Nov 16 Nov 18
Week 15 Nov 23 – Nov 30	<u>Final Exam Week</u> Class Review Final Project and Presentations <u>Final Exam Week</u> Class Review Final Project and Presentations <u>Final Exam Week</u> Class Review Final Project and Presentations	Nov 23 Nov 25 Nov 30
Week 16 Nov 30 – Dec 12	Exam 4: Chapters 1-15 <u>(Exams can be found on Blackboard).</u>	Dec
	Grades evaluated, calculated & reported.	

I reserve the right to change this schedule to meet the needs of the class.

Responsibilities	
Attending Class	<p>You cannot succeed in this class if you do not attend. We believe that intellectual growth and success in higher education occur through interaction in the classroom and laboratories. However, we do not want to penalize students for participating in college-sponsored events. When you miss class because of a college event, you must give notice of your absence in advance, and you are responsible for all missed work. Being absent doesn't excuse you from doing class work; you have more responsibilities to keep up and meet the objectives of this course.</p> <p>All students have the total of being absent and tardy (2) times free for the entire semester. There will be no questions asked no explanations needed. Any absences or tardiness that occurs afterwards will count no matter what the reason.</p>

	<p>Also, I as the teacher have the right to assigned seats in class as I see fit.</p>
<p>Turning In Your Work</p>	<p>You cannot succeed in this class if you do not turn in all your work on the day it is due.</p> <p>Class Policy for Assignments: Students are expected to complete all homework assignments on time; late submissions will be accepted, but penalized. ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH BLACKBOARD or Connect Plus. Assignments sent through email will not be graded.</p> <p>Late Paper Assignments will be deducted</p> <p>1 day 23.75 2 day 22.56 3day 21.43 4 day 20.36 5 day 19.34 6 day 0</p>
<p>Using Electronic Devices</p>	<p>Electronic devices can only be used in class for course-related purposes. If you text or access the Internet for other purposes, you may be asked to leave, in which case you will be marked absent.</p> <p>Class Policy on Electronic Devices: (optional) (Cell phones, Beeper, Pagers...etc.) Out of respect for other students, please mute cell phones. If it is absolutely necessary to conduct a conversation or follow up on a page, please leave the room to do so.</p> <p>Classroom Etiquette: (This list is based upon suggestions found in The Chicago Tribune, who compiled the information from interviews and college handbooks.)</p> <p>DO ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Arrive on time ☐ Turn off your cell phone ring; if you must answer the phone, leave the room ☐ Be attentive and respectful ☐ Participate without dominating discussions <p>DON'T ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Text message friends, answer the phone, or surf the web ☐ Carry on side conversations during class ☐ Leave early without clearing it in advance ☐ Send professors e-mails that are written too casually or lack punctuation <p><u>Please Note</u></p> <p>Any student who violates any of these DON'TS will lose (2) participation points each time there is an occurrence. I will not stop class to address your behavior. Violation points are not debatable and will be automatically</p>

	<p>deducted and student will be made aware of occurrences during evaluation time.</p> <p>There will be no makeup exams in this course. If you know you are going to be absent make arrangements with me to take test early.</p>
Participating in Class	You must be on time, stay for the whole class and speak up in a way that shows you have done the assigned reading. If you are not prepared for class discussion, you may be asked to leave, in which case you will be marked absent.
Doing Your Own Work	<p>If you turn in work that is not your own, you are subject to judicial review, and these procedures can be found in the College Catalog and the Student Planner. The maximum penalty for any form of academic dishonesty is dismissal from the College.</p> <p>Using standard citation guidelines, such as MLA or APA format, to document sources avoids plagiarism. The Library has reference copies of each of these manuals, and there are brief checklists in your Student Handbook and Planner.</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: All papers may be electronically checked for plagiarism.</p>
Withdrawing from Class	After the last day established for class changes has passed (see the College calendar), you may withdraw from a course by following the policy outlined in the CCSJ Course Catalog.

Resources	
Student Success Center:	The Student Success Center provides faculty tutors at all levels to help you master specific subjects and develop effective learning skills. It is open to all students at no charge. You can contact the Student Success Center at 219 473-4287 or stop by the Library.
Disability Services:	Disability Services strives to meet the needs of all students by providing academic services in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. If you believe that you need a “reasonable accommodation” because of a disability, contact the Disability Services Coordinator at 219-473-4349.
CCSJ Alerts:	Calumet College of St. Joseph’s emergency communications system will tell you about emergencies, weather-related closings, or other incidents via text, email, or voice messages. Please sign up for this important service annually on the College’s website at: http://www.ccsj.edu/alerts/index.html .

In addition, you can check other media for important information, such as school closings:

Internet: <http://www.ccsj.edu>

Radio: WAKE – 1500 AM, WGN – 720 AM, WIJE – 105.5 FM, WLS – 890 AM, WZVN – 107.1 FM, WBBM NEWS RADIO 78

TV Channels: 2, 5, 7, 9, 32