HD 372/572 Family Financial Management Winterim, 2017

Rule 1A. If you keep on doing what you’ve always done, you’ll keep on getting what you’ve always got.

**Instructor:** Dr. Sterling Wall

**Email:** swall@uwsp.edu

**Phone:** 715-346-4653 / HOME 715-824-2080 – ONLY if you really need it 

**Office:** 242A CPS

**Office Hours:** Online – or email me to arrange to meet over phone/skype or in office.

**Text:** *The Four Laws of Financial Prosperity*, Harris and Coonradt(Recommended!)

*Personal Finance: An Interactive Approach,* 2nd Edition, French & Noel

Online and worksheets as assigned.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is a three semester credit hour course. Consumer, business, and government interactions in the economic environment; consumer choice and decision making relevant to resource allocation and purchases in the market. Principles of family financial management. May not earn credit in both HD 372 and Economics 272.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Through active participation in class and completion of assignments students will:

* Acquire knowledge of the fundamental forces, laws, and principles that protect and guide rational consumer decision making.
* Apply economic laws and principles to successful life management, for themselves and others, in the economic sphere.
* Value the process of rational consumer decision making and applying knowledge to economic choices and actions.

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

* Reading of assigned text chapters and other materials by scheduled due dates.
* Attend class and participate in class discussion and activities.
* Completion of all assignments and exams on time.
* Attendance on class field trips within Stevens Point.

**STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS** Any student needing special accommodations needs to contact the Office of Disability Services (715-346-3365) in the Student Services Center. Those students documented as eligible will be appropriately accommodated. If anyone has any concerns about passing this course, please feel free to see me.

**HONESTY CODE** Academic honesty will be regulated according to the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point Communal Bill of Rights and Responsibilities (Chapter UWSP 14). All violations will be reported, no exceptions. All lectures and presentations of material by professors are proprietary and may not be recorded, distributed, or broadcast without prior express permission.

**ATTENDANCE** The University expects that students will attend all of their classes. Exam questions will be drawn ALL material presented, video's, text book, online assigned readings, and course instructions. Students are responsible for all in class or 24 hour advance email announcements.

**EXAMS** There will be 3 Exams, worth 100 points each. Exams will cover material from all information presented for this class including, but not limited to, lectures, readings, videos, etc.

**MISSED EXAMS** The only reason that make up exams are given is if **both** of the following apply: a) you have a university approved excuse for the missed exams and b) acceptable verification for missing each exam was submitted within one week of the exam in question. Typically, any make‑up exams are given immediately after the 3rd exam. If you miss an exam or an assignment because you were in jail, you will be allowed to make up the exam or work under the stipulation that credit will be given pending your trial verdict: Guilty = no credit, Not Guilty = credit.

**TEST ITEM PROTEST** Any student wishing to protest a test item must do so, in writing, within one week of the time that the test grades are posted. In your protest make direct reference to the answer that you feel is correct (i.e. reference, page#, and quote). By the end of the term a response will be given to you concerning your protest.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Assignments are to be turned in at the time and date due, or as otherwise announced in class or via email. Points for late work will be deducted at 10% per each day late, beginning with the date due.

The main assignment for this course will be a Budget Portfolio which you will build over the course of the term. For each topic (e.g. housing, taxes, car/food/clothing purchases…) you will compile both a “thrifty” and a “comfortable” estimate. Thus, by the end of the term you will have actually gone through the process of rational consumer decision making in a number of essential areas of personal and family economic life. Additional instructions forthcoming.

**GRADING** There will be 3 tests worth about half of your grade, a term long Budget Journal that will be worth about another forth, and in class quizzes, activities, and assignments that will be worth about another fourth. Grades will be posted periodically throughout the term. Students may come and discuss grades for one week after they are posted. Thus, at the end of the term, grades from the beginning of the term will not be discussed. Grades are assignedon the following basis:

90% and above = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C