

FCS 3450 – Family Economic Issues

INSTRUCTOR: Heather Spencer

OFFICE: AEB 326

E-MAIL: heather.spencer@fcs.utah.edu

TEXT: Walden, Michael. 2001. Economics and Consumer Decisions. Kendall/Hunt.

Course Description

In this course you will gain an understanding of how an economic perspective can be used to learn more about how families make resource allocation decisions. For example, we will discuss how economic considerations influence decisions about the amount of schooling a person gets, whether or not to buy a home, financial investment options, and retirement savings. The course will begin with discussion of basic economic principles as they apply to family resource allocations. This will be followed by discussion of specific allocation domains and the role that market and government forces play in shaping the choices families make. In the course of these discussions, we will also examine how economic decisions that are made at the household level affect the larger society. My personal goal is to give you the tools necessary to have a positive impact on our local, state, and national economies by making sound economic decisions, including becoming a millionaire by retirement. This is definitely the best QI class on campus – so come and take it!

Assignments and Grading

Assignment

Grading

Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
In-Class Quizzes (4 @ 10% each)	40% (5 given – dropping the lowest score)
Assignments (2 @ 10% each)	20% (choose 2 out of the 4 offered)

WebCT will be used extensively in this class for modified class notes, review sheets, to report grades and to give further instructions on class assignments. Check it out at <http://webct.utah.edu>

